

which the Iroquois are defeated by the Hurons, losing several of their number. From the captives, the French learn much news from the South,—one item, of alarming import, that a troop of 600 Mohawks had started, thirty days before, to attack Three Rivers. But an hour later, the tidings come that Father Poncet and another Frenchman have been carried away as prisoners by the enemy. A party of Frenchmen at once start in pursuit of the captors; but, on the next day, they hear that Three Rivers is already besieged by the Mohawk band just mentioned, and they at once go to the relief of the town. The siege lasts over eight days, and the cultivated lands around the fort are laid waste; but the enemy begins then to talk of peace, and presents are exchanged on both sides. The Mohawks raise the siege, and the chief at their head sets out to pursue Poncet's captors. Ambassadors from the Onondaga tribe come, about this time, to treat for a peace. They reach Quebec soon after the beginning of a church jubilee; processions march through the streets daily, conspicuous in which are "more than four hundred fusiliers, in fine order,"—a sight which must have confirmed the peaceful predilections of the envoys.

Father Poncet arrives at Montreal, October 24, "in a wretched canoe, and dressed in Dutch fashion." He is conducted by some Iroquois, with whom, again, presents are exchanged; and feasts are made for them by the Jesuits and the Hospital nuns. Various complications arise in the relations between the Hurons, Iroquois, and French; and a council thereon is held at the Jesuit residence, November 19.