

LXXXIII. The *Relations* of the Jesuit missions in Canada, being written in French, had, of course, but a limited circulation in other countries than France, outside of ecclesiastical circles. These missions had now been carried on for twenty years, and the Roman Catholics of Europe felt general interest in them, as conducted by priests of an order within that church. To satisfy this interest in Italy, Francesco Bressani—who had been one of the missionaries in Huronia, from 1645 to 1649—wrote, after his return to his native land, the *Breve Relazione*. It gives, in popular style,—and often abridged from the *Relations* and other contemporary documents,—an account of the Canadian Indians (especially of the Hurons); of the Jesuit missions among them, and the difficulties incident to their conversion; and of the death of Jogues, Daniel, and other missionaries who have fallen at their posts in this arduous service. He begins with the situation and natural features of the country called New France,—discussing at length the causes of its extremes in climate; with a brief mention of its earliest discovery, and of the French settlements thus far made therein. He then describes the Huron country, and enumerates the tribes beyond it; and gives an account of the customs, clothing, characteristics, and government of the savages among whom he had labored during four years. In the main, these chapters traverse the same ground as do the Huron *Relations* of 1636 and 1639 (Vols. X., XVII.).

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MADISON, WIS., January, 1899.