

Three Letters of Father Thiercy Beschefer,
1666-67.

QUÉBEC, 1st of october, 1666.

FOR about 3 months I have been on the point of starting on an embassy to the Iroquois and to New Holland, which has been occupied by the English for 2 years.¹² This journey was somewhat perilous, according to report; and the issue gave ample proof of it: 1st, because it was found, a few Days after our departure from Kébec, that the Iroquois of a nation other than that to which we were going, who had remained as hostages for our safety, were secretly making a canoe ready, in order to escape. 2nd, as we were about to leave three rivers, 30 leagues from here, we received news that bands belonging to the very nation who had asked us for peace through the Ambassadors of the Oneiout nation, had quite recently killed or taken prisoners seven persons, both officers and volunteers, who were out hunting, among whom was a relative of Monsieur de Tracy. He wrote me that I was not to go farther, and directed me to conduct in safety to Kebec the Iroquois whom we had caused to be arrested. I was sincerely affected when I saw the journey interrupted. Although I considered it somewhat perilous, nevertheless the hope of there baptizing some children, or succoring the Huron captives, made me feel a special attraction for it.

Since then, we have waged war against them. In