

Letter by Father Claude Chauchetiere, missionary in Canada, to Father Jacques Juheneau, at Bordeaux.

VILLEMARIE, this 20th of September, 1694.

MY REVEREND FATHER,
Pax Christi.

We expect peace with the Iroquois and hope that the negotiations that we have had with them will some day be successful. They would already have been so, had not the English opposed obstacles to it by their counsels, by their presents, and by their arms. They are doing what they can to divide the land with us. This year, they have advanced into the interior in the direction of the Illinois and the Miamis,—who live toward the south, at 40 degrees of north latitude; and among whom we have fine missions, which the English and the Iroquois would soon destroy if they once established themselves there.²⁴ Two iroquois nations came, 8 days ago, to sue for peace; but, while these two came to Montréal, 3 went to Orange to confer with the English,—namely, the aniez, the Onneiouts, and the Onnontagués; the two that came down here are the Goiogwens and the Tsonnontouans. We refused their presents, and told them that our kettle was still hung; and that we gave them a delay of only 30 days. After that, we shall have war on a larger scale than we have had with the savages, unless God, who preserves this country through an extraordinary