

who take everything from them to obtain liquor; and who are deprived of the proceeds of the hunting, which belong to them, but are taken from their husbands before they reach the village, by their creditors.

These savages, loaded with debts and despoiled by their creditors, who leave them not even their guns, are frequently obliged to quit the country and go among the English, because they cannot hope to pay what they owe.

These people have been so fully alive to the injury done them by this traffic that they have asked and still ask the governors, nearly every year, to prevent it by their authority. The reply given on the subject by the Governor of Manhate to a missionary, who was compelled by the Elders of Agnié to write to him, is a convincing proof of this.⁷

COPY OF THE LETTER OF THE GOVERNOR OF
MANHATE.

FATHER, from your last letter I learn your complaint—which is seconded by that of the Elders of the Iroquois Captains, as appears more clearly by their petition enclosed with yours—respecting the large quantity of liquor which some persons of Albanie take the liberty of selling to the Indians; that by their so doing great disorder has resulted, and still more is to be feared, unless a stop be put to this. In reply, I beg to assure you that I have taken every possible care, and will continue, by very severe penalties, to restrict and prevent the supplying of liquor to the Indians in excessive quantities. I am very happy to find such virtuous thoughts expressed by pagans, to the shame of many christians. But