

1656. ada would not have sufficed to meet such an expense, and among the associates in the New France Company no one had less credit, or was less hearkened to, than those who were best informed as to the country.

Some of the
Isle Orleans
Hurons
offer to
join the
Mohawks,
and repent.

While these things were passing at Onondaga, the Hurons on Isle Orleans, no longer deeming themselves secure, took refuge in Quebec; and in a moment of resentment at having been abandoned by the French, they sent secretly to propose to the Mohawks to receive them into their canton, so as to form only one people with them.¹

They had no sooner taken this step than they repented; but the Mohawks took them at their word, and seeing that they endeavored to withdraw their proposition, resorted to measures to compel them to adhere to it. They began by letting loose upon them several parties, who butchered or carried off all who went out apart in the fields; and when they supposed that these hostilities had rendered them more tractable, they sent thirty deputies to Quebec to bring them in.²

Haughti-
ness of the
Mohawk
envoys.

Nothing could exceed the haughtiness with which these envoys discharged their commission. They first applied to Mr. de Lauson, and asked to be heard in a general assembly of the Hurons and French; and the governor-general having consented, the chief of the deputation first addressed the Hurons, saying: "Brother, it is now some time³ since you stretched out your hands to beg me to lead you to my country; but as often as I get ready to do so you draw back, and it is to punish you for your inconstancy that I have struck you with my hatchet. Believe me. Give me no more ground to treat you thus. Arise and follow me." With these words, he presented two belts—one, he said, to help the Hurons to rise; the other

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1657, p. 19.

² The Relation (1657, p. 20) does not mention hostilities. It says a party of one hundred was sent,

who encamped three or four days' march from Quebec, and sent thirty to the Hurons to summon them to go.

³ Four years.