

PREFACE TO VOL. LIV

Following is a synopsis of the documents contained in this volume:

CXXVI. Little more than half of the *Relation* of 1669-70 appeared in Vol. LIII.; the remainder of the document is herewith presented. Milet's account of the Onondaga mission is continued: he describes the return to that village of a war-party with several captives, and the tortures inflicted upon the latter. The missionary comforts and instructs them as best he can, and succeeds in baptizing them. He is much tried by the conduct of some elders of the tribe, who not only fail to restrain the dissolute behavior of the young men, but themselves take part in superstitious rites. For these things he boldly reproves them, but does not obtain much satisfaction; Garakontié is almost the only one who is thoroughly devoted to the faith. The Onondaga church is mainly composed of Hurons and other captives. Notwithstanding the corruption and idolatry around them, they still retain their piety, innocence, and love for prayer. Milet has baptized forty persons, most of them infants or dying persons. At his instance, the elders resolve to send deputies to Montreal, to confirm and ratify the peace between the Iroquois and Algonkins. Garakontié is highly praised for his piety, friendship to the French, and ability as the head of his