

PREFACE TO VOL. XXV

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

LI. The *Relation* of 1642-43, written wholly by Vimont, as superior of the Jesuit missions in New France, was commenced in Vol. XXIII. of our series, wherein the first three chapters were given; in Vol. XXIV. we presented Chapters iv. - xii.; and herewith publish Chapters xiii. - xiv., thus concluding the document.

After his survey of the missions in Lower Canada, and account of Father Jogues's capture by the Iroquois (see preceding volume), Vimont turns his attention to the Huron mission, with its peculiar difficulties and dangers. He cites letters from the Fathers there, which have fortunately escaped from the clutches of the Iroquois: they note encouraging progress in their work, and, among the savages, more inclination to the faith; but the loss of Jogues, and of so many Huron converts who were captured with him, has dealt a severe blow to the infant church. The fierce Iroquois are rendering the St. Lawrence so unsafe that the welfare of the Huron mission is greatly imperiled. Among the Huron converts are found a much larger number of warriors than formerly. "The use of arquebuses, refused to the Infidels by Monsieur the Governor, and granted to the Christian Neophytes,