

their affairs. Besides, the Indians bordering on New England, are the most cruel and barbarous of all the savage nations, and have destroyed all their innocent neighbors. They are always unfixed, either rambling for several months together, or hunting, or upon warlike expeditions; and at their return to the villages, have generally unlearned all their former instructions; and it is impossible for any minister to accompany them in their ramble of three or four hundred leagues at a time.

8. After this good endeavor was defeated, the Indians remained without instruction, except that some few were taught by the Dutch minister at Albany. But the year 1709, produced an event which the Society hoped might have had very happy consequences, and fixed Christianity among the Iroquois. Four Sachems, or chief persons of four nations of the Iroquois, came in the nature of ambassadors to England, confirming the peace made with the Governor of New York, and requesting Her Majesty would be pleased to direct that their subjects might be instructed in Christianity, and ministers might be sent to reside among them. The Archbishop of Canterbury received the following letter from the Earl of Sunderland, then one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

*Whitehall, April 20, 1710.*

MY LORD,

The enclosed being a copy of what has been given to the Queen by the ambassadors lately arrived from the five Indian nations, I am ordered by Her Majesty to transmit it to your Grace, and to signify to you her pleasure, that you lay it before the Society for Propagating Religion, that they may consider what may be the more proper ways of cultivating that good disposition these Indians seem to be in for receiving the Christian faith, and for sending thither fit persons for that purpose, and to report their opinion without loss of time, that the same may be laid before Her Majesty.

I am, &c.

SUNDERLAND, &c.

The Archbishop was then much indisposed, and confined to his house with the gout, and therefore signified to the Secretary of the Society, to call a committee to meet at Lambeth. A committee met, and it was agreed there, and afterward by the Society at a general meeting, that two missionaries should be sent to the Mohock and On-cydes Indians, with a salary of £150 sterling each, together with an interpreter and schoolmaster, to teach the young Indians; and this opinion was humbly laid before the Queen. Her Majesty was farther pleased to direct that a fort should be built among the Mohocks, at the government's expense, with a chapel and a mansion house for the minister, for his greater convenience and security, and that the religious offices might be performed with due decency.

A fort was soon after built, one hundred and fifty feet square, and garrisoned with twenty soldiers and an officer, and a house and Chapel