

finger ends. . . . They gave us also to understand that those Agouionda do continually war one against another." The word "Agouionda" is evidently the Iroquois "oñkhiyo'thã," which signifies *they strike us*; hence *our assailants*. . . It is probable that one and the same people was designated by the words "Toudamani" and "Agouionda," and that this people was the Iroquois. He describes a state of desultory warfare between the people living on the St. Lawrence and the "Toudamani, a people dwelling toward the south." There is, however, no hint given of the existence of a league.

No league or confederation of peoples was perhaps ever formed without a sufficient motive in the nature of outside pressure. That the Hurons were in possession of the St. Lawrence watershed above and below the Saguenay river is evident from Cartier's narrative, for he met two hundred persons speaking Huron-Iroquois fishing at Gaspey. It is probable that the Iroquois were constrained to form the league to withstand the assaults of the Hurons and their Algonkin allies, for it is more than likely that such raids of the Iroquois as that mentioned by Cartier would provoke and incense the Hurons and their allies to seek means to avenge their wrongs; and we should find evidence of the existence of the league in a more aggressive policy of the Iroquois consequent upon their political union for self-preservation.

In 1622 Champlain was informed at a peace convention composed of Hurons, Algonkins, and Iroquois that these people were tired and fatigued by the war which had then lasted for "more than fifty years." Lescarbot, believing that "the change of language in Canada" was due to "a destruction of people," says, on page 170 of his *Nova Francia* (London, 1609), "For it is some eight years since the Iroquois did assemble themselves to the number of 8,000 (eight thousand) men, and discomfited all their enemies, whom they surprised in their enclosures;" and again, on page 290: "By such surprises the Iroquois, being in number eight thousand men, have heretofore exterminated the Algoumequins, them of Hochelaga, and others bordering upon the great river."

Thus it appears by the quotation from Champlain that in 1622 the war of extermination had then lasted for more than fifty years, going back to 1572 and perhaps 1560 as the date of its commencement.