

From 1637 to 1648 (o) the Missionaries were engaged in making converts and the description given by them of the zeal and faith of the *Catachumens* of Sylleri reminds us of the first ages of the Church.

The Indians were taught to believe that miracles were from time to time performed, and the influence of their religious instructors was without limits.

In the years 1649 and 1650 the Huron nation was nearly extirpated by the Iroquois, and the remnant of the Hurons under the guidance of a Jesuit Priest joined their Brethren at Sylleri (p)

On the 11th of March in the year 1651, the Company of New France granted to the Indians residing at Sylleri one league in front by four leagues in depth, at the said place called Sylleri.

On the 13th of the same month, possession was taken of this Seigniory by a Jesuit Priest "as Tutor to the Indians."

On the 11th of April 1658 the King of France confirmed the above Grant, assigning as a reason for doing so "that it was very reasonable that they (the Savages) should have and retain in their Country, the extent of ground which shall be necessary for them to live in common, and lead a sedentary life near the French Settlers."

By this deed of confirmation the King of France gave to the Jesuits the entire and uncontrollable administration of the Lands so granted to the Indians.

As well the before-mentioned Grant to the Indians, as the Instrument establishing the taking possession of the Seigniory of Sylleri by the Jesuits for the Indians, and the before-mentioned deed of confirmation by the King of France will be found in the Appendix to this Report under the Letter (C.)

In the year 1699 the Superior of the Jesuits in Canada presented to the Governor and Intendant a Petition, wherein they pray "His Majesty might be pleased to transfer to them, in their own right, the Fiefs, Lands and Seigneuries of Sylleri, which down to that time they had enjoyed as administrators of the property of the Christian Indians to whom the said Fief had been given by His Majesty in the month of July 1651, and which the said Indians had been obliged to abandon ten or twelve years previously, to settle elsewhere, as well because the lands under culture were altogether worn out, as because fire wood having been cut upon the said Seigniory for nearly forty years, was only to be had at a great distance from the place of their residence."

The Governor and Intendant granted the prayer of this petition, being, as they say, fully informed of the good intentions of the said fathers of the Company of Jesus, in the great aids spiritual and temporal which they render to the Savages of this Country, and of the great pains which they have taken, and the excessive expences which they have

(o) Charlevoix I. 205, 230, and sequente.—Francisci Creuxii Historia Canadensis, pages 362, 367, 433, 442, 495.—And Histoire de l'Hôtel Dieu de Quebec.

(p) Charlevoix I. 295 to 305.