

Mr. Henry Kirke, who has written a very careful work on the Kirke Expedition, under the title of the "First English Conquest of Canada," says at page 83, "It is impossible to divine the motives which influenced the King to make such a promise" (to restore all forts captured after the 24th of April, 1629.) "It may have been that he was yet totally ignorant of the value of his conquest, and was only anxious to secure the four hundred thousand crowns, part of Henrietta Maria's dowry, which the French King threatened to withhold unless the forts were restored." The truth of this conjecture is proved by the letter. Its close connection with the history of Canada will, I trust, be accepted as a sufficient reason for the space given to the subject in the present report.

The letter, signed by Charles himself, is in the Harleian Collection, 1760. A short extract from it was given in the Report on Archives of 1881, but its importance was then overlooked, owing to the pressure caused by other researches. No reference is made to it in the Calendar of the Colonial Series of state papers, although there are other letters there on the same subject and of similar dates. The Foreign series is not calendared to so recent a period; in a collection of Royal Letters, published by the Bannatyne Club, is one from Charles I to Sir William Alexander (Lord Stirling), dated in July, 1631, intimating that Port Royal was to be restored to France, but no hint is given of the existence of this letter to Wake. In none of the histories of Acadia or Nova Scotia, Haliburton's, Murdoch's, Moreau's or Rameau's, is any reference made to it, nor in Ferland, Faillon or, indeed, any other.

In Hannay's History of Acadia, it is said that Charles wrote to Wake in June, 1631, as to the restoration, but no authority is given for the statement. It is probable, however, that reference is here made to the Warrant (not letter) dated 29th June, 1631, under the Great Seal, signed by Charles himself, empowering Wake to negotiate the Treaty. The text (in Latin) is in the *Mercure François*, vol. 18, p. 47, (Paris, 1633.) It seems, therefore, impossible to avoid the conclusion, that the letter has escaped the notice of previous investigators, and that it is a valuable addition to our historical documents, a statement made, however, with proper reserve, as it is possible that it may have been published, although I have failed to discover it.

Another interesting document will be found at Note E, an original account of the martyrdom of the two Jesuit Fathers, Jean de Brebœuf and Gabriel Lallement, slaughtered by the Iroquois in the Huron country, in the neighbourhood of Matchedash Bay, in 1649. The "Relation des Jésuites" of that date and the "Lettres Historiques de la Mère Marie de l'Incarnation," give a circumstantial account of the death of the two Jesuits. As will be seen, the narrator, Christophe Regnaut, was the lay brother to whom was entrusted the care of preparing the remains for conveyance to Quebec, where the skull of Brebœuf is still preserved in the Hotel Dieu in a receptacle under the silver bust sent by his family, an opening covered with glass allowing only a portion of the front part to be seen. Brebœuf is