

PREFACE TO VOL. LII

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

CXXIV. In Vol. LI. appeared Chaps. i.-viii. of the *Relation* of 1667-68; the rest of the document is here given. Le Mercier, having in preceding chapters outlined the state of the various distant missions, now returns to affairs at Quebec. A remnant of the Hurons—"small indeed, but very precious"—yet exists there. Still more, the Jesuits there are instructing over two hundred Iroquois, sixty of whom have been baptized. The details of some remarkable conversions among these people are given; and the writer describes the death of a young Indian girl, who had planned to become an Ursuline nun. Her patience, purity, and devotion show that she has reached "the perfection of souls consummate in sanctity;" and she has a visit from the Virgin Mary, and a vision of angels at her death.

The *Relation* proper apparently terminates here; but various addenda are made, beginning with a letter from Laval to a French priest in Paris. He notes the recent arrival in Canada of several priests from France, enabling him to supply outlying settlements, which have hitherto been destitute of religious services. Laval mentions with much gratification his recent visit to Tadoussac (described in Chap. vii. of this *Relation*). He has undertaken to educate a