

friends by missives, which render absent persons present. Our Indians are astonished at this, seeing that we often write to our Fathers who are at a distance from us, and that by our letters they learn our thoughts and even what these very Indians had done at the place of our residence.

After having made some stay in our convent in Canada, and communicated with our Fathers, and the Reverend Jesuit Fathers, I was induced by religious impulse to visit the sedentary nations whom we call Huron, and with me the Reverend Fathers Brebeuf and De Nove, Jesuits. Having arrived there, with all the hardships each one can conceive, by reason of the wretched roads, I received a letter (some time after) from our Reverend Father Joseph le Caron, by which he encouraged me to push on further to a nation which we call Neutral, of which the interpreter Brulé told wonders. Encouraged by so good a Father and the great account made to me of this people, I journeyed thither and set out from the Hurons with this design, October 18, 1626, with one named Grenolle, and La Vallée, Frenchmen by nation.

Passing by the nation of the Petun,² I made the acquaintance and friendship of a chief who is in great repute there, who promised me to guide us to that Neuter nation, and furnish Indians to carry our packages, and the small stock of provisions that we had laid up, for it is self-deceit to think of living in these countries as mendicants, these people never

¹ "We have no knowledge of any one who proceeded thither with the design of preaching the gospel, except the Rev. Father Joseph de la Roche Daillon, Recollect, who in 1626 made a journey to that country and spent the winter there." Relation 1641, p. 74. It is evident that the Neuters lay on both sides the Niagara, as late as 1640, although at that time the Wenro, and perhaps other bands had been forced away by the Senecas, and only the smaller portion of the villages were on the Iroquois side of the Niagara. From the proximity of Ounontisaston where Father de la Roche wintered to the Wenros, who were on the Iroquois frontier, the presumption is very strong that that Neutral town was east of the Niagara, and in what is now New York.

² These are the Tionontates or Dinondadies, who were overthrown with the Hurons. Their descendants form principally the western band now known as Wyandots.