

morning and evening and before and after their meals, and the best mark of their faith was that they were no longer wicked nor dishonest as they were before. So it was reported to Lalemant by trustworthy Hurons, who went every year to trade with Algonkin nations scattered here and there in the far west.

Ragueneau, in the Relation of 1648, refers to Lake Erie as being almost 200 leagues in circuit, and precipitating itself by "a waterfall of a terrible height" into Lake Ontario or Lake St. Louys.

The "Aondironnons," a tribe of the Neutrals living nearest to the Hurons, were treacherously attacked in their village by 300 Senecas, who, after killing a number of them, carried as many as possible away with them as prisoners. The Neutrals showed no open resentment, but quietly prepared to revenge themselves.

A Christian Huron, a girl of 15, taken prisoner by the Senecas, escaped from them and made her way to the Neutral country, where she met four men, two of whom were Neutrals and the others enemies. The latter wished to take her back to captivity, but the Neutrals, claiming that within their country she was no longer in the power of her enemies, rescued her, and she returned in safety to Ste. Marie.

These incidents were the prelude to the storm which shortly afterwards burst. In 1650 the principal part of the Iroquois forces was diverted against the Neutrals. They carried two frontier villages, in one of which were more than 1,600 men—the first at the end of the autumn, the second early in the spring of 1651. The old men and children, who might encumber them on their homeward journey, were massacred. The number of captives was excessive, especially of young women, who were carried off to the Iroquois towns. The other villages more remote were seized with terror. They abandoned their houses, their property and their country. Famine pursued them. Scattered amongst distant woods, lakes and rivers they lived in wretchedness and want, and in constant apprehension of their relentless enemy.

The Journal (April 22, 1651) adds that after the destruction of the Neutral village the* previous autumn the Neutral warriors, under the lead of the Tahontaenrat, had followed the assailants and killed or taken 200 of them, and 1,200 Iroquois warriors had returned in the spring to avenge this disaster. In August a Huron reported at Montreal the capture of Te ot'ondiaton (probably the village in which Brebeuf composed his dictionary, and which is referred to in the Relation as having been taken in the spring). The condition of the Neutrals was desolate and desperate. In April, 1652, news reached Quebec that the Neutrals had leagueed with the Andastes against the Iroquois, that the Senecas had been defeated in a foray against the Neutrals, so that the Seneca women had been constrained to quit their village and retreat to the Oneida country; and also that the Mohawks had gone on the war path against the Andastes during the winter, and the issue of the war was unknown. The last of July, 1653, seven Indians from the Huron country arrived at Quebec and reported a great gathering near Mackinac of all the Algonkin nations, with the remains of the Tobacco and Neutral nations at A'otonatendie, three days above the Sault Ste. Marie (Skia'ie) towards the south. The Tobacco Indians had wintered at Tea'ontorai, the Neutrals to the number of 800 at Sken'chio'e towards Te'o'chanontian. These were to rendezvous the next fall with the Algonkins, who were already on the spot to the number of 1,000.

This is probably the last we hear of the Neutrals under their own name. †

* Hurons from Georgian Bay.

† Some of the survivors united with the remnant of the Hurons at Mackinac and on Lake Superior, and under the name of the Hurons or Wyandots they appear from time to time on the page of history. Their removal to Detroit, on the establishment of the latter trading place by Cadillac, is perpetuated by the name of Wyandotte, to the south of the City of the Straits.

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