

In 1618 these same allies, for whom France sacrificed so much, reduced the rising colony almost to the verge of ruin. Out of a petty quarrel which occurred at Quebec, and in which two whites were killed by the Montagnais, a conspiracy followed which was entered into by the Indians of the different tribes. Their object was nothing less than the destruction of the entire colony. Eight hundred warriors of these tribes assembled at Three Rivers and planned to massacre all the Europeans at the post; if this succeeded a determined attack on Quebec was to follow, and the entire white population was to be massacred. Fortunately the plot was discovered in time by the Rev. Mr. Duplessis, who succeeded after enduring many trials and privations, in affecting a reconciliation.

Soon after this event the quarrel with the Iroquois assumed a more serious character. But the result this time was that the alliance between the Hurons, Algonquins and the Montagnais with the French was consolidated;—an alliance which through sheer necessity more than from real affection, was for ever established.

At this juncture the Algonquins tried hard to induce Champlain to resume a more active part in the general hostilities, but, being aware of the serious consequence of any action with the Indians, their efforts remained without effect.

In 1624, through the untiring exertions and salutary influence of the missionaries, peace was at last established between the French and the friendly Indians on one side, and the Iroquois and their allies on the other. A large number of Indians, comprising 60 canoes of Hurons, 13 of Algonquins and 25 of Iroquois, came down the St. Lawrence in company to the general assembly at Three Rivers, where the treaty of peace was to be solemnly ratified in presence of Champlain. Larger flotillas of