

1656. fear the worst, and their destruction seemed certain, take which course they would. In this perplexity they divided. Some declared that they would not leave the French; others resolved to give themselves to the Onondagas, with whom they had already entered into engagements. Only the Bear family kept its word given to the Mohawks.¹

These resolutions taken, the council reassembled; and although the governor-general had taken, apparently, no measures to have his rank respected, he chose to be present. Father le Moyne, who acted as his interpreter, spoke first, and said: "Ononthio loves the Hurons. They are his children; but he does not keep them in leading-strings. They are old enough to act for themselves. He opens his arms and leaves them at liberty to go whither they will. For my part, I will follow them wherever they go. If they go to you, Mohawk, I will instruct you also in what manner it is necessary to pray and adore the Maker of all things; but I dare not hope that you will listen to me. I know you, and know how far your indocility goes; but I will console myself with the Hurons. As to the canoes you ask, you see well enough that we have scarcely what we need. If you have not enough, make some."²

The whole
Bear tribe
gives itself
to the Mo-
hawks.

The chief of the Bear family of the Hurons³ then spoke. "Brothers," said he, "I am yours. I throw myself with closed eyes into your canoes, prepared for every thing, even to die. But I wish to go at first alone, with my own cabin.⁴ I will not permit others to embark with me. If hereafter the rest of my nation wishes to come and join me, I will not oppose it; but I am glad to be able to let them see

¹ The Attignenonhac, or Cord family, resolved to stay; the Arendarhonon, or Rock, to go to Onondaga; and the Attignauquantan, or Bear, to join the Mohawks: *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1657, p. 20. See ante, p. 71, n.

² *Relation de la Nouvelle France*,

1657, p. 21. Le Moyne's remarks closed, not opened, the conference.

³ Atsena or le Plat.

⁴ The word *cabin* is used to mean family.—*Charlevoix*. The expression is not, however, given in the remarks of the Bear-Chief in the *Relation*, 1657, p. 21.