

first met for Christian worship. In 1648, the Iroquois seemed resolved to exterminate the Hurons, and suddenly fell upon their unsuspecting villages. Sillery was singled out for attack, and whilst the priest Daniel was performing service, a band of Iroquois burst upon the unarmed inhabitants, massacred every one of them to the extent of 400 families, and last of all put the good father to a martyr's death.

At this time the first communication passed between the French and British American colonies. An envoy from New England brought proposals for a lasting peace and alliance with Canada, despite all hostilities of the mother countries,—a proposition which M. d'Ailleboust announced himself by a deputy at Boston as willing to entertain, provided that the English united with him against the Iroquois. This proviso was not acceptable to the Puritans and the negotiation ended.

Again did the Iroquois descend upon the Huron settlements: St. Ignace and St. Louis were desolated and given to the flames, and the Jesuit missionaries killed; shortly after, St. Johns with nearly 3000 inhabitants was totally destroyed. The decimated Hurons now abandoned themselves to despair and fled in all directions. Some took refuge among the Eries and Ottawas and other more remote Nations, and some united with their Iroquois conquerors; some, under the direction of the Jesuits, removed to the island of St. Joseph, where their inveterate foes soon found them out and well nigh annihilated them. An unhappy remnant of some hundreds sought aid from the missionaries, and was by them conveyed to a post near Quebec, which was named Sillery, in memory of their former settlement. The descendants of these refugees are still to be found in the village of Lorette, a few miles from Quebec. At this juncture the French were virtually blockaded in their forts, and the Iroquois

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