

NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN
NEW ENGLAND AND CANADA,
1648-51.

I.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE, MADE FOR THE ABNAQUIOIS MISSION, AND INFORMATION ACQUIRED OF NEW ENGLAND AND THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE MAGISTRATES OF THAT REPUBLIC, FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST THE IROQUOIS. THE WHOLE BY ME, GABRIEL DRUILLETES, OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS.*

I left Quebec for that mission, the first of September, by order of my Superior, and with a passport and permit of Monsieur d'Ailleboust, Lieutenant-General for the King and Governor in the whole River St. Lawrence, accompanied by

* Gabriel Druilletes was born in France in the year 1593. Having entered the Society of Jesus, he solicited a Foreign Mission, and was, after many years, sent in 1643 to Canada. He embarked at Rochelle, on the 8th of May, with Garreau and Chabanel, both of whom lost their lives amid their Apostolic labors. Druilletes was immediately destined to the Algonquins, and applied to the study of that wide-spread language. His labors began as soon as he was able to make himself understood, and in 1644 he wintered with a party of wandering Indians.

The torment caused by the smoke of an Indian Cabin, was such as to surpass endurance, and the vivid description of Father Lejeune in the Relation of 1634, shows how much the heroic Missionaries suffered to win their neophytes to Christ. Father Druilletes was more severely tried than any of his predecessors; his eyesight gradually failed, and he became at last entirely blind. Hundreds of leagues of snow and ice, of mountain and forest, cut him off from the French posts, and the well-meant but clumsy attempts of the Indians to restore his sight, made his blindness incurable. He was now led about by a child, and they even proposed tying him on a sledge and dragging him to Quebec. He laughed at this, and advised a recourse to God by prayer. All in the vicinity were invited to assemble for the purpose; by their help he arranged his chapel furniture, and began a votive Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin, which frequent repetition had so indelibly imprinted on his mind, that he needed no missal. As he proceeded with the Holy Sacrifice, his neophytes prayed with fervor, and when after the Consecration he elevated the Sacred Host, his eyes were opened and he saw what he had adored in darkness. From that moment his eyesight never dimmed amid the smoke of the lodges, where he passed many a dreary winter.

Noel Negabamat, Chief of Sillery, bearing moreover a letter of credit to speak on behalf of said Sieur d'Ailleboust to the Governors and Magistrates of said Country.

I arrived at Narantsouat (Norridgewock), which is the highest town of the Abnakiouis Indians, on the River Kennebec, fifteen or sixteen leagues from the highest English settlement on that river, which is sixteen leagues from the mouth.

I arrived on St. Michael's eve, at this highest English

This wonderful cure, which he ascribed to the faith of his neophytes, filled him with new courage and confidence in the protection of the Almighty.

After spending the next year at Sillery, he was, as we have seen, sent to winter with the Abnakis. He set out on the 29th of August, 1646, and after suffering much privation and hardship, recompensed by an abundant spiritual harvest, returned on the 16th of June, 1647, and a few days after, a stranger to repose, set out as chaplain to a party marching against the Iroquois. Indeed, till his return to the Abnakis in 1650, as given in the present Journal, we find him constantly engaged in his laborious duties at Sillery, with wandering parties on the upper St. Lawrence, or around Tadoussac, in almost daily peril of death by starvation. At the latter place, he, in 1650, first preached to the Oumamioukis, or people of Anticosti, and then proceeded to the country of the Oupapinachiouk, who now, for the first time invited the Missionary to their villages. From September, 1650, to March, 1657, he was constantly with the Abnakis, except for a few days spent at Three Rivers, in June, 1651, and the time of his embassies in New England; for he was on two occasions sent as ambassador of the French, first alone in 1650, and the second time with the Sieur Godefroy, in 1651.

He was Superior at Three Rivers in 1655, but chosen the next year to found the Ottawa Mission on Lake Superior, he set out with his old fellow voyager, Garreau; when that Missionary was killed at Montreal, Druilletes was left behind by the Ottawas, and returned for the last time to his beloved Abnakis, who had adopted him as a Chief.

In 1661, he set out with Father Dablon for the Kristineaux Mission, and leaving Tadoussac in June, ascended the Saguenay to the River Nekouba and Lake St. John. The approach of the Mohawks prevented his further progress, and after renewing the faith of his scattered flock, he returned to Tadoussac, where we find him sent again, year after year, carrying the Cross through all the neighboring country.

In 1666, he was at Three Rivers, instructing the celebrated Marquette in Montagnais, but both were soon to labor on the Western Lakes.

In 1669, unless the manuscript of Perrot erra, he was at Sault Ste. Marie, on Lake Superior, and the latest relations ten years later, speak of him as still laboring there, though broken with age and toil. He was, however, near the close of his long and useful career. Returning to Quebec, he died there on the 8th of April, 1681, universally regretted and revered as a Saint. Few, indeed, of the Apostles of Canada, were more frequently invoked. "The fact is," says Charlevoix, "no Missionary then labored with more fruit in Canada, because Heaven had made him powerful alike in work and word," and he, like many others, relates wonderful interpositions of Divine Power, ascribed to the interest of Druilletes' prayers.

The sources for his life are the Relations, printed and manuscript, the Journal of the Superior, which fixes the year of this Journal and many important dates, the present narrative, and for his death, a letter in the collection of Paris Documents at Boston and Charlevoix.

settlement, which both by English and Indians is called Coussinoc, and the following day, the feast of him whom we have chosen as patron and guide of our voyage, said Noel and I spoke to the agent of the said settlement, accompanied by the Abnaquiois, to whom we had spoken on the way. Noel, speaking with his present, a bundle of beaver skins, said : "The Governor of the River St. Lawrence, by the Father who stands here to those of your nation, and I as ally join my word to his, not to speak to thee alone, but rather to tell thee to embark my word, that is to say, my present to carry it to the Governor of Plymouth." The said Agent assured them that he would do with the said Governor and said Magistrates, all that could be expected from a good friend, whereupon Noel and the Abnaquiois demanded that I should go with him myself, to present the letters of the said Sieur Governor, and explain his intentions according to the letter of credit which he had, and to bear the word of the Christians of Sillery * and the Catechumens of the River Kennebec.

The agent, by name John Winslow, citizen Merchant of the Colony of Plymouth, who is of a very good disposition, as we shall say hereafter, answered : "I love and respect the Patriarch." (This name is applied to me on this river, and on all the Acadian Coast.†) "I will lodge him in my house, and I will treat him as my own brother, for I well know the good that he does among you, and the life that he leads there." This he said because he had a particular zeal for the conversion of the Indians, as well as his brother Edward Winslow, Agent for said New England at the Parliament of Old England, who is endeavoring to found a Society to bring up and instruct the Indians, as is done with the charity poor at London.‡

The other particulars are in the letters which I wrote, as

* Sillery was an Algonquin-Montagnais Mission, founded near Quebec, by the generosity of Noel Brulart de Sillery, Knight of Malta, in 1642. It was for many years a most flourishing seat of Indian progress, but war and disease at last reduced it, so that the few survivors removed with the Abnakis to the River Chaudière, and thence to St. Francis.

† This name had been given to Messire Josué Fleche, the first Priest on the Acadian Coast, who had come over with Potrinocourt, prior to the arrival of the Jesuits under Father Biart, whose settlement in Maine was in 1618 destroyed by Argal. The title Patriarch came in all probability from the seamen, and was their common term for a clergyman.

‡ This was the "Corporation for propagating the Gospel among the Indians," chartered by Act of Parliament, July 27, 1649, which names Winslow among the first members.

well to the said Governor at Quebec, as to my Superior on the 15th of November.*

I left Coussinoc (Augusta) by land, with the said agent, inasmuch as the vessel that was to carry us had some cause of delay in waiting for the Indians, and feared to be surprised by the ice. We had, therefore, to go ten leagues to embark by sea at Marimitin (Merry meeting), which the Indians call Nassouac (Naxoat). This was a painful march, especially to the agent, who is already somewhat in years, and who assured me that he would never have undertaken it, if he had not given his word to Noel.

On the 25th we sailed, and by the way met, at Temeriskau (Damariscotta), some English fishermen, some of whom grumbled at the said agent for bringing a Frenchman along the coast, who was a spy to help the French, who were about to ravage their settlements.

Contrary winds were the reason why we reached Kepam (Cape Ann), which forms the Cape of the great Bay of Boston, only on the 5th of December. They also forced us to go partly by land and partly by boat, to pass across the great Bay to Charleston (*sic*), where we crossed the river which separates it from Boston, at which place we arrived on the 8th. The chief men of Charleston, learning that I came on behalf of the said *Sieur* Governor, hastened to notify Major General Gebin (Gibbons), to be at his office on my arrival.

The agent, John Winslow (whom I hereafter call my Pereira,† on account of the affection which he has always shown me), having made his report to the said *Sieur* Gebin on the object of my voyage, he received me as a real ambassador from said *Sieur* Governor, and gave me the key of a room in his house, where I might in all liberty pray and perform the exercises of my religion, and he besought me to take no other lodgings while I remained at Boston.

The next day, the 8th, the said *Sieur* Gebin, accompanied by —, took me to —, from Boston to a village called Ragsbray (Roxbury), where *Sieur* Dudley, Governor of Boston, was at the time. I presented him my letter of credit

* Unfortunately none of these papers, referred to, have been found.

† An allusion to Pereira, a Portuguese merchant, the devoted friend of St. Francis Xavier, the Apostle of the Indies. It may be that Winslow had called Druilletes his Xavier, and that the Missionary, in turn, gave him that of Pereira.

from said *Sieur* Governor. Having opened it, he commanded an interpreter to translate it from French into English.

I told him that I came to speak on behalf of Noel and the Christians of Sillery, as also of the Catechumens of the Abnaquiois who had made me their ambassador to him. He assigned me, as the day of audience, the following Tuesday, December 13th, giving orders to notify the magistrates to repair to Boston on that day.

On the 13th the said Governor of Boston and the magistrates invited me to dinner, and after it gave me audience. Besides the magistrates and the secretary, there was present one man, as deputy of the people, whom they call representative.

I was particularly urgent on behalf of the Abnaquiois, who had been killed by the Iroquois (this is in the letter written to Father Lejeune, in Article 8), after which I was told to withdraw, and soon after invited to supper, after which they gave me the answer which is in the other letter in the afore-said article.

In consequence of the character I had assumed of ambassador of my Catechumens of the Kenebec, they told me that Boston had no interest in it, that I must apply to Plymouth.

I left Boston on the 21st of said month of December, for Plimouth, where I arrived the next day with my said (*Pereira*) who lodged me with one of the five farmers* of Coussinoc, named *Padis* (*Paddy*). The Governor of the place, by name *John Brentford* (*W. Bradford*), received me with courtesy and appointed the next day for audience, and then invited me to a dinner of fish, which he prepared on my account, learning that it was Friday. I met with much favor at this settlement, for the Farmers, and among others *Capt. Thomas Willets* spoke to the Governor on behalf of my negotiation, and then we had the discussions which are contained in the letter in Article —

I left on the 24th, and returned by land to Boston, accompanied by the son and nephew of my said *Pereira* who paid all my expenses. On the way I reached *Rogsbray*, where the Minister named *Master Heliot*, who was instructing some Indians, received me in his house, as night had surprised me. He treated me with respect and affection, and invited me to pass the winter with him.†

* Merchants who farmed the trade.—See *Williamson's Maine*, 1, 366.

† This friendly connection of the two eminent founders of the Catholic

The next day, the 29th, I arrived at Boston, and proceeded to Major Gen. Guebin's.

The 30th of said month I spoke to Mr. Ebeny (Ellery), one of the magistrates, who declared that he was very glad that the Governor of Plymouth was willing to give the aid against the Iroquois, saying that it was very reasonable to help fellow Christians, though of another religion, and particularly against a pagan persecutor of Christians. He presented me the answer of the Governor and magistrates of Boston to that of the Governor.

The last day of said month I returned to Ragsbray to ask said Governor Dudley to insert in the letter assurance for the passage of the French, who would wish to go by Boston against the Iroquois. Grasping my hand, he said: "Assure your Governor that we will be his good friends and servants, whatever war may occur between the crowns. I am very glad that the Governor of Plymouth is disposed to afford the aid you desire against the Iroquois. I will aid him with all my power."

The 1st of January I wrote the whole state of affairs to Father Lejeune, by an English ship which sailed the 8th of the same month, the said Mr. Guebins wrote to Mr. de Latour and addressed the whole to Rouen, to the Sieur Rosée. I asked Father Lejeune to send an answer as well to Boston as to our Governor, by the Gaspé fishermen. The tenor is in the letter in Article —.

I wrote also to Mr. Edward Winslow, at the solicitation of (my Pereira) his brother, begging him to write in favor of our affair to the magistrates of New England.

Some time after I wrote to Mr. Wintrop, son of the late Sieur Wintrop, heretofore governor of Boston, who is one of the principal magistrates of the Colony of Kenetigout (Connecticut),* a very good friend, from what they say, of the French and Indians.

The 3d of said month, I spoke with Sieur Gebin, who told me that he would do what he could for the aid against the Iroquois, but that he believed the Boston people not much inclined to it, but that he believed, that there would be not-

and Puritan Missions among the New England Indians, has hitherto escaped notice; and shows that though traditional prejudice had led to a penal law against the Jesuits, in 1649, those intrepid missionaries won alike the admiration and esteem of the stern Puritans of the Coast.

* The English documents of the time have Conitaquit and Canitaquot.—
See Hutchinson Papers

withstanding a means of humbling the Iroquois ; perhaps he founds his designs on a new discovery which he has set on foot near New Sweden.

The 5th the said *Sieur Guebin* conducted me to the port and commended me very particularly to *Thomas Yau*, master of a vessel clearing for the *Kenebec*.

The 9th of said month bad weather stopped us at *Morbletz* (*Marblehead*) where there is a quantity of people. The minister, by name *William Walter*, received me with great affection, in company with him I went to *Salem* to speak to the *Sieur Indicott* (*Endecot*), who speaks and understands French well and is a good friend of the nation and very earnest to have his children inherit this affection. Seeing that I had no money, he defrayed my expenses and invited me to the table of the magistrates, who for a week were giving audience to every body.

At his request I left him in letter form, a proxy to act efficaciously during the general court of Boston, which was to be held on the 13th of May. He assured me that he would do his best to bring the Boston colony to consent to it. He told me that it served as a rule for the others, and that the Governor of Plymouth had just ground to insist on obtaining this of the colonies. On my departure he told me that he had thoroughly read what I left in writing, on behalf of our Governor and my Catechumens, and that he perfectly understood it ; that he would dispatch a man to bring me a letter at the *Kennebec* ; that as soon as he could he would tell me what he had done in the matter and had obtained of the magistrates.

The 24th of January I arrived at *Peskaticgset* (*Piscataqua*), which is twenty leagues from Boston. Here I learned in full the story of *Captain Ki*——, who, somewhere about the month of July, took off *Cape Breton*, a French fisherman, named *Elie Cousturier de la Tremblade*. The capture was estimated at 700 pistoles. *Mr. Chapellier* (*Nicholas Shapleigh*) Vice-Governor of *Agamenticos* (*York*), which is two leagues from *Peskaticgset*, assured me that all were indignant at this capture, that Boston had fined him a hundred pistoles, and every sailor forty ; in a word, that it was seen, that Heaven itself declared against him ; a violent north-east wind having wrecked the vessel which he had used in surprising this poor French Huguenot, in virtue of a commission

which the Archduke Leopold gave him in the year forty-seven, to the extent of fourteen thousand pistoles.

Pierre Tibaud, a good Catholic, confirmed all this story, as an eye-witness. Seeing this vessel, on which he was a sailor, wrecked, he obtained of Master Thomas Yau leave to come to Canada about the month of May. He is a young sailor of St. Nazaire, on the river of Nantes, a good interpreter for English, Flemish, Dutch, and Spanish, who can act as pilot for all the coast from New England to Virginia. I gave him my word that he would be received as a sailor at Quebec at sixteen livres a month, as he had been among the English.

The 25th at Peskatig8et Thomas Yau, master of the bark that was taking me to Kenebec, of his own accord asked me for a simple certificate of the peace and good understanding between New England and New France, in order to go about the month of April or May to Isle percée with thirty tons of Indian corn besides other goods.

The 7th of February at Tameriskau the fishermen showed me much affection; they were the very ones who had regarded me as a spy, when going to Boston.

The 8th of February I came to the river Kenebec, where I continue my interrupted mission. All the English who are on this river have received me with great marks of affection.

The 13th of April, Mr. John Winslow, my true (Pereira), returned from Plimouth and Boston to K8ssinoc, assures me that all the magistrates and the two commissioners of Pley-m8th have given their word and resolved that they must press the other colonies to join them against the Iroquois in favor of the Abnaquiois, who are under the protection of that colony of Pley-m8th, which holds the seigniorship of K8ssinoc, and for its seigniorial rights takes the sixth of what arises from the trade. Besides this Mr. Brentford, the Governor, who is one of the five merchants or farmers who furnish all that is necessary for the trade, had already, on the 20th of March, sent Captain Thomas Wilhet (a man much inclined to the Abnaquiois, with whom he had formed acquaintance at K8ssinoc during several years), with letters pressing the aid against the Iroquois, to the Governors of Harfort or Kenetig8t, which is on the river of the Sok8ckiois, fifty leagues from Pley-m8th and of Nieuf Haven, or K8sin-opiers (Quinnipiac), which is ten leagues from Harfort, and

even to the Governor of Manate, to prevent his selling any more arms to the Iroquois, and to speak to him positively so that he will not only not oppose those who would attack the Iroquois, but even assist the English in their design, in pursuance of the Union into which he entered with New England some years ago.

The Captain's orders are to be at Nieuw Haven or Kéinopeia to solicit the Commissioners or Deputies of the four colonies, who are to assemble there.

He adds that the common report at Boston, where he had been ten or fifteen days, was that Mr. Indicott would be Governor of that colony at the first General Court, which would be held about the 17th of May.

The same and the letters of some persons at Boston, assure me that the common opinion of the citizens of Boston is that if the Republic will not undertake this aid against the Iroquois by public authority, individuals are ready as volunteers for this expedition on the simple permission to said request, as in favor of Mr. Guebins for Monsieur Latour, some troops went against the late Mr. Daunay.

The 24th of April the Sokóckiois* arrive, bearing the word of four towns—namely, of the Sokóckiois, the Pagamp-tagóe, the Penagóe (Pennacook), and the Mahingans (Mohegans), situated on the river of Manate. They reply to the proposition which I had made when speaking to them last fall (Nov. 18th). The Abnakiouis joining me had presented to the Sokóckiois fifteen belts, and ten or twelve bracelets of wampum (which may be estimated at seven or eight packs of beaver), to say to them: "Do what Onontio and Tekóirimaeth tell you."

The Sokóckiois says that these four towns having held Council during three months last winter, had resolved to risk it against the Iroquois with Onontio (the French Governor) and Noel, whether the English undertake the war against the Iroquois or not, and when the Iroquois is exterminated, against every other nation that shall make war on Quebec.

* This name enjoys, like most Indian names, an admirable variety in point of orthography. It must not, however, be confounded with the Souriquois or Micmacs, a different tribe. The Sokóckiois are supposed by some to have left their name to Saco; and Druilletes subsequently calls the Connecticut their river, as though they lay on it. They were certainly between the Abnakis and the Mohawks.

2d. He adds that many other nations allied to them will accompany them in war, especially one called Nŏtchi-huict, very numerous and feared by the Iroquois. It lies between the Mahingans and Manate.

He offers Noel Tekŏirimaeth either now at once to wipe away the blood of the Algonquins and Sokŏckiois, who have been inadvertently killed, not recognizing each other, or to wait till after the death of the Iroquois to make the satisfaction, which they are accustomed to make one another in such cases.

Reflections on the hopes given us by the Indians.

It is certain that all the Indian tribes in New England hate the Iroquois, and fear that he will exterminate them after the Hurons and Algonquins: he has already tomahawked several whom he met hunting beaver, and has never made any satisfaction.

Moreover it is certain that the Sokŏckiois have been closely allied to the Algonquins, and are very glad to deliver themselves from the annual tribute of wampum, which the Iroquois exacts, in order to avenge the death of many of their countrymen killed by the said Iroquois. Besides this they hope for the beaver hunt near Quebec after the death of the Iroquois.

Lastly, it is sure that the single nation of Nŏtchihaut, which has arms, suffices at least to divert the Iroquois so well as to leave him no leisure to do us any injury of importance.

Reflections on what may be hoped from New England against the Iroquois.

1st. I suppose as a certain fact that the English of the four united colonies—namely, Boston, Pleymŏth, Kenetigŏt, (Hartford), and Kŏinopeia (New Haven), have a very good hand for exterminating Indian nations; they have exterminated two “usque ad mingentem ad parietem.”

They are so powerful in point of number that four thousand men can be put on foot in the single colony of Boston. There are at least forty thousand souls in these four colonies, and then the road leading to the Iroquois is short and easy.

2nd. I suppose the express article of their union (which

enacts that without the consent of the Commissioners or Deputies of these four colonies, none of the colonies can undertake any offensive war; for this purpose the deputies must assemble to deliberate thereon, and three colonies must consent to the aid, so as to carry it by plurality of votes.

Now, this I think supposes that we have pretty good hope of this aid by means of the English, because we have a moral assurance that three of the four Colonies are for consenting to it.

II. The Governor of Pleyms̄th with all the Magistrates, not only consents, but presses this affair in favor of the Abnaquiois, who are under the protection of the colony of Pleyms̄th.

The whole colony has no trifling interest in it, because by its right of seigniory, it annually takes the sixth part of all that arises from the trade on that river Quinebec. And the Governor himself in particular, who, with four other of the most considerable citizens, are, as it were, farmers of this trade, would lose much, losing all hope of the commerce of the Kennebec and Kebec, by means of the Abnaquiois, which will soon infallibly happen if the Iroquois continues to kill and hunt to death the said Abnaquiois, as he has done for some years past.

The Governor has a strong precedent for obtaining this aid, all the Colonies having undertaken a war in behalf of an Indian nation on the river of Picot (Pequot), called Mor-thigander,* because the Colony of Kenetiḡst, having said nation under its protection, called on the other three Colonies to undertake the war.

See more at length in the copy of the letter written to the Rev. Father Lejeune, in Art.

What this Governor has answered, is to the point, and then all assure me that this Governor's influence is all-powerful.

2nd. The Vice-Governor of Boston, named Mr. Indicott, who is now probably Governor, has pledged his word to do all in his power to bring the Boston magistrates to consent and unite with the Governor of Plyms̄th. All the Boston magistrates write that they will recommend it earnestly to the deputies.

* The allusion here defies all our knowledge.

Boston's interest is the hope of a good trade with Quebec, especially as that which it has with Virginia and the isle of Barbade and St. Christhopf is on the point of being destroyed by the war excited by the Parliamentarians to exterminate there the authority of the Governors who still hold for the king of England.

This interest has made the Boston merchants say in advance, that if the Republic makes any difficulty about sending troops the volunteers will be satisfied with a simple permission for the expedition.

3d. The principal magistrate of the colony of Kenetigst named Mr. Wintrop, son of the late Mr. Wintrop, who first wrote to Quebec about the trade, likes the French greatly, and will probably do what he can for the aid, after the letter which I wrote him praying him to finish what his father had begun.

As for the Governor of Ksinopeia, since all the world protest he is a most reasonable man, there is some appearance that if he does not urge the matter, he will at least not hinder it, seeing it urged by Boston and Plym8th, the two most considerable colonies, and, as it were, the rule of the others. Besides this I have with Mr. John Winslow written to Mr. Edward Winslow, the agent of these four colonies in England, to induce him to write a word in favor of the Indian Christians and Catechumens, whom he tenderly loves. A word from him is all powerful on the minds of the deputies of these four colonies.

Lastly, what I have represented on behalf of the Governor of Quebec and the Christian Indians seems so urgent that they can scarcely excuse their conduct if they do not resolve to aid.

This is the whole at length. At least this favorable disposition of the three colonies suffices to make us hope for a permission for such volunteers as would like to strike a blow, or at least letters of favor for the province of Mariland, all composed of English Catholics, who are quite near the Iroquoia.

II.

REPORT OF FATHER DRUILLETES.

(FERLAND, *Notes sur les Registres de Notre Dame de Quebec*. Page 70-2.)

I arrived here on the eighth of December, the feast of the Conception ; and not without a special Providence. The Barque of my guide and governor, who is the Agent at Kenabaka, named John Winslow, was surprised by the ice, and we were accordingly compelled to march about a hundred leagues, according to what they say, partly by land and partly by water.

On the 9th, I was conducted by my introducer, and the Major General of this place, Mr. Quebin, (Gibbons*) (a great friend of M. de la Tour, and afterwards of the Governor of Kebec, when he heard that said M. de la Tour had been well treated at Kebec,) to the house of Mr. Dutley, (Dudley), Governor of all the Colony of Boston. He resides half a league from here. I presented the letter of credit from the Governor of Kebec, and solicited audience as ambassador and agent, not only in the name of the Governor, according to the tenor of the letter, but also on behalf of the Abnaquois Catechumens, who are under the jurisdiction of Pleymouth, (Plymouth,) which is another Colony ; this my poor habit and equipage showed, likening me more to a savage than to a Frenchman of moderate condition. . . .

The day of my audience was deferred till the following Tuesday, as the Governor of this place had to assemble the magistrates on that day for some other matter. Before stating here what I have done for my twofold embassy, I feel it necessary to give you some information of the state and government of this country.

- All New England is a republic, composed of four colonies. The first and most considerable is that of Boston, which has, they say, forty towns or villages in its dependence or district. The second is that of Pleymouth, fourteen leagues from here ; this has twenty towns or villages, of which Pleymouth is the principal one, but much less than Boston, although it is the oldest of all ; it is situated near Cape Malle-

* Gibbons was Major General from 1649 to his death in 1654. JOSEPHLYN, *Chronological Observations*. Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections, III., iii., 386-8.

barre, (Cod.) The third is that of Kenetigouc, (Connecticut,) thirty or forty leagues from the second. This has about ten towns, one of which alone has 500 men, they say. Kenetigouc is the river of the Sokokiois. The fourth is that of Kouinopeia, (Quinnipiack,) ten leagues from the third. This has only 4 or 6 villages on the coast towards Manathe, (Manhattan,) from which it is 30 leagues distant, or thereabouts. From Manathe to the largest English settlement is about 20 leagues.

All these 4 colonies are united by the articles of Confederation, one of which requires that no colony in private shall determine any thing for any war whatever, without the knowledge and consent of the Assembly of the States of the whole country; it is called the Council or Court of the Commissioners, who are 8 in number, that is to say, two deputies for each colony. They are to assemble at Kouinipeia (New Haven) at the first session, which is not held usually till the month of September. They themselves when they assemble choose one of their number who presides.

Besides the Council of the States for the whole country, each separate colony has a council composed of its Governor, Vice Governor, and a certain number of counsellors whom they call magistrates. This separate council gives audience according to the causes which arise during the year. All the officers of this separate Court are created and confirmed in the month of May, which is the time when the general Court of all the colony is held, that is to say, the upper house, composed of the most considerable men of the colony, and the lower house composed of the deputies of the people. It assembles in the chief town of the colony. It was this separate Court of Boston which gave me audience after inviting me to dinner on the 13th of December.

III.

LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL OF QUEBEC TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEW ENGLAND.

(CHARLEVOIX, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, I., 287.)

GENTLEMEN :

The gentlemen of Boston having a few years ago proposed to establish commercial intercourse between New France and New England, the Council appointed by His Majesty in this