

**THE JESUIT RELATIONS AND
ALLIED DOCUMENTS: TRAVELS
AND EXPLORATIONS OF THE
JESUIT MISSIONARIES IN NEW
FRANCE. 1610-1791. VOL. XV**

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The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents: Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France. 1610-1791. Vol. XV by Reuben Gold Thwaites

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REUBEN GOLD THWAITES

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ALLIED DOCUMENTS

VOL. XV

The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents

TRAVELS AND EXPLORATIONS
OF THE JESUIT MISSIONARIES
IN NEW FRANCE

1610-1791

THE ORIGINAL FRENCH, LATIN, AND ITALIAN TEXTS, WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS AND NOTES; ILLUSTRATED BY PORTRAITS, MAPS, AND FACSIMILES

EDITED BY

REUBEN GOLD THWAITES

Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Vol. XV

HURONS AND QUEBEC: 1638-1639



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CONTENTS OF VOL. XV

PREFACE TO VOLUME XV	1
DOCUMENTS:—	
XXX. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la Novvelle France, en l'année 1638. [Second and concluding installment, being Part II. of the document.] <i>François Joseph le Mercier</i> ; Ossossané, June 9, 1638	9
XXXI. Lettre au P. Joseph-Imbert du Peron. <i>François du Peron</i> ; Ossossané, April 27, 1639	147
XXXII. Lettre à M. le Curé de St-Martin, à Beauvais. <i>Simon le Moyne</i> ; Ossos- sané, May 25, 1639	191
XXXIII. Lettre au T. R. P. Mutio Vitelleschi. <i>Joseph-Marie Chaumonot</i> ; Kébec, Au- gust 7, 1639	197
XXXIV. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la Novvelle France, en l'année 1639. [First installment, comprising Chap. i. of Part I. of the document.] <i>Paul le Jeune</i> ; Sillery, September 4, 1639	203
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATA: VOLUME XV	239
NOTES	245



ILLUSTRATIONS TO VOL. XV

- I. Photographic facsimile of Le Moyne's
letter to the Curé *Facing* 191
- II. Photographic facsimile of title-page, Le
Jeune's *Relation* of 1639 206

PREFACE TO VOL. XV

Following is a synopsis of the documents contained in this volume:

XXX. The first section of the *Relation of 1638*, by Le Jeune, was given in Vol. XIV.; Le Mercier's report upon the Hurons, concluding the document, is given in the present volume. Le Mercier recounts the persecutions suffered by the missionaries in 1637. The plague that had ravaged some Huron villages increased with the coming of summer, until it swept over the entire nation. The ignorant savages ascribe their sufferings to the machinations of the missionaries—regarding the pictures of Christ and the Virgin Mary, used in the religious ceremonies, as the source of some wicked spell cast upon the people. Some of the baptized natives die from the epidemic, which again arouses the old fear that baptism causes death. The cabin doors are closed upon the priests; and one war chief, seeing them at his door, "threatened to split their heads if they went any farther."

According to savage custom, a general council is held at Angoutenc to consider the state of the country, and its relations to the missionaries, who are expected to be present thereat. The presiding chief invites "his nephews, the French," to speak; they do so, explaining the reasons for their entering the Huron country, stating that they visit the sick only