

that all their nations were on the point of being totally destroyed unless we speedily brought a remedy—We, for these causes and the good of this colony, and following the express orders given us in the name of the queen-regent, mother of the king, to protect the Indians against their said enemies, have deputed, and depute, with the advice of the Council established in this country and some of the most notable inhabitants, the Sieurs Gabriel Dreuillettes, preacher of the gospel to the Indian nations, and John Godefroy, one of the councillors of the said Council, ambassadors for them to the gentlemen of New England, to treat, either with the governors and magistrates of New England, or with the General Court of Commissioners and Deputies of the United Colonies, for assistance in men, and munitions of war, and supplies, to attack the said Iroquois in the most proper and convenient places; as also to agree upon articles which shall be deemed necessary to assure this treaty, and to grant to the said people of New England the trade which they have desired from us by their letters in the year 1647, with the articles, clauses, and conditions which they shall therein see necessary, awaiting the arrival of the ambassador whom we shall send on our behalf to ratify and establish finally what they may have agreed upon.

1648.

“We accordingly pray all governors, lieutenants-general, captains, and others, to let them pass freely, etc.”¹

To all appearance, it was this condition of making war on the Iroquois which broke off the negotiation; and it was, in fact, exacting much from the English, who were far enough removed from the Iroquois to have aught to fear from them, and who were engaged exclusively in trade and agriculture.² It is certain that the alliance was not

¹ Before the date of these papers the colony of Plymouth decided against the French request. “The court declare themselves not to be willing either to aid them in their

design, or to grant them liberty to go through their jurisdiction for the aforesaid purpose:” Records of the Colony of Plymouth, June 5, 1651.

² Druillettes and Godefroy reached