

1670. to the English in New York, he perceived that this project, if successful, would ruin, beyond all hope, the commerce of New France. He even carried his views further, and did not doubt but that, could the cantons once detach the northern nations from our alliance, they would soon renew hostilities, which nothing but fear of the French arms, supported by those of our allies, had repressed.

To divert this stroke, he resolved to show himself to the Iroquois, and his voyage had all the success which he anticipated. He even deemed it best to ascend the river St. Lawrence, which is extremely interrupted by falls and rapids from the island of Montreal to quite near Lake Ontario, because he wished to teach these savages that the French could go in boats to their very doors; a thing impracticable by the Sorel River.<sup>1</sup> This expedition, it is true, considerably affected his health, which obliged him to ask his recall to France, in order, as he said in his letter to the minister, that, if he had the happiness of recovering his health, he might go and lose his life in the king's service, as all his brothers had already done.<sup>2</sup>

Acadian  
affairs.

But what then more seriously engaged the attention of the ministry in regard to New France, was the settlement of Acadia, which had just been once more restored to France, in pursuance of the treaty of Breda.<sup>3</sup> It was considered at court that to give that province a degree of solidity, that it had always lacked, it was necessary to put it in a position to be speedily relieved from Quebec. But to understand the design of the ministry in this matter, we must go back somewhat in our narrative.

<sup>1</sup> De Courcelle's visit was in consequence of royal direction. See N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 62, 70. For his voyage up the St. Lawrence, see Dollier de Casson's Narrative of Gov. de Courcelle's Voyage to Lake Ontario, New York Colonial Doc., ix., pp. 75-88. He left Montreal June 3, 1671, and returned the 17th:

Ib.; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1671, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> None of the recent Canadian writers throw any light on the personal history of Courcelle.

<sup>3</sup> July 21-31, 1667: Memoires des Commissaires du Roi sur les Possessions en Amérique, ii., p. 32; Act of Cession, ib., p. 292.