

the arrested Iroquois. Under the pretext of doing him honor, and protecting him against the insults of the young men, then greatly excited against the French, it was decided to give him a large escort, and at the same time send out several war-parties to scatter around the colony. As soon as these learned of the release of their countrymen, they were to plunder and massacre all the Frenchmen or allies of the French that they could find. After this, the same thing was to be done at Onondaga.¹

Father le Moyne did not, however, set out, and I know not why; but as early as the month of February, in the following year, numerous parties of Mohawks, Oneidas, and Onondagas, all in war-paint, took the field.² It did not require all this to arouse the suspicion of the French commandant, Dupuys, who soon after learned from a Christian all the details of the plot.³ He then found himself in a great dilemma, and, in fact, he saw no means of extricating himself that had not strong objections. To strengthen his position and stand a siege was only to prolong, not escape his doom, because he had no relief to expect from Quebec, or none that could reach him in season. Sooner or later he must needs surrender, die fighting, or perish with hunger and hardships.

To escape, required first the making of canoes; for no precaution had been taken to retain a certain number, and to work at any would be giving notice of their intention to

1657.

}

The conspiracy is discovered.

1658.

parture in a Dutch vessel for Quebec: *Ib.*, p. 15. He had also, in 1657, descended to Manhattan, where he announced to Dominie Megapolensis the existence of salt-springs at Onondaga (O'Callaghan's *New Netherland*, ii., p. 303), though the Dutch clergyman turned as deaf an ear to such a story as he did to the controversial treatises subsequently sent him by his Jesuit friend: *Ib.*, p. 363. Le Moyne, at the request of the Dutch, negotiated with the acting Governor of Canada, D'Ailleboust,

a commercial treaty between the colonies, and communicated his success in a letter dated Fort Orange, April 7, 1658, which, with the enclosed letter of D'Ailleboust, are given in O'Callaghan's *N. N.*, ii., p. 364, n.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1658, pp. 3, 14.

² *Ib.*, p. 12.

³ See Relation, 1658, p. 3. On p. 4, it says they learned the details only after their escape. D'Ailleboust sent orders to Dupuys, which never reached him: p. 12.