

BOOK X.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the exertions made by Mr. de Courcelles to maintain peace among the nations of Canada, it was not easy for it to subsist long among so many different tribes, whom the least discontent arms against each other, and who are restrained by a superior power, only in so far as they have something to fear or hope at its hands. Unfortunately for the governor-general, France did not continue to send him the reinforcements which had been promised, and he maintained his influence over the Indians only by the ascendancy which he was wise enough to assume over them after de Tracy's expedition against the Mohawks. He could not, in fine, prevent the Senecas, the most remote of all the Iroquois from the French settlements, from yielding to the inclination which led them to make war.

1670.

When least expected they attacked the Pottawatomies; Mr. de Courcelles was soon informed of it. He told them that he took it quite ill, that notwithstanding his orders, and in violation of their promise to him, attested by oath, they had attacked a peaceful tribe, relying on the faith of treaties; that he would not permit a peace to be troubled, which they were to respect as his work; that he desired them to give up to him the prisoners whom they had taken from his allies, and should they refuse to send them to him sound and in good condition, he would go and wrest them out of their hands, and treat their canton as he had done that of Mohawk.¹

War among
the Indians.
Course of
de
Courcelles.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1671, p. 3.