

struck by the Count de Frontenac were not reprehensible in fact; but, even when he most reasonably employed severity, he did so with such a violent air and such overbearing manners, that he greatly diminished the offence of the guilty* by rendering the chastisement odious. This often threw him and even the court sometimes into very great embarrassments. He had especially allowed himself to be biassed against the missionaries¹ and it was not his fault that his ill-humor did not deprive the colony of one of its strongest barriers.

De Courcelles and Talon had deemed it necessary, in order to keep the Iroquois cantons in check, to draw as many as possible of these Indians to La Prairie de la Magdelaine, where, as we have seen, several had already settled.² This task had been assigned to Father Fremin, who had discharged it successfully; but it was soon perceived that the soil at La Prairie was not suited to the raising of the crops that the Indians usually plant;³ and as scarcity began to be felt, the new town was menaced with general desertion.⁴

To avoid this catastrophe the missionaries asked the governor and intendant for another site opposite Sault St. Louis. Count de Frontenac returned no answer to their petition; but Mr. du Chesneau,⁵ who considered the removal of the Indians inevitable if their request was refused,

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 93, 94, 120.

² Ante, p. 164. The great movement from the Mohawk was made by Kryn the great Mohawk, a chief of Caughnawaga: Relations, 1672-3, p. 53. For Catharine Ganneaktena, the foundress of the colony, see Relations Inédites, ii., p. 284; Relation, 1673-9, p. 163; Chauchetière, Vie de la bonne Catherine, MS., St. Valier, Etat Présent, p. 47.

³ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1673-9, p. 231; Relations Inédites, ii., p. 66.

⁴ Details as to the origin of this mission at La Prairie are given in the Relation de la N. F., 1672-3, pp. 27, 53, 79; 1673-9, pp. 141-3, 229-257; Relations Inédites, ii., pp. 49-70; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 116; Canada Doc., II., ii., p. 61; St. Valier, Etat Présent, pp. 47-66; Viger, Souvenirs Historiques sur la seigneurie de la Prairie; Shea, Catholic Missions, pp. 297-308.

⁵ James Duchesneau was made Intendant, June 5, 1675. See Commission in Edits et Ordonnances, iii., p. 42.