

1673-4. granted it, and they took possession.¹ It had, of course, been foreseen that the general would not approve this way of action; but they could never imagine that he would carry his anger as far as he did; on this occasion he indeed so far forgot himself that even his best friends could not justify him.²

The Dutch annoy the Iroquois missionaries.

The Iroquois Christians, nevertheless, remained at Sault St. Louis, and the court, deeming the establishment necessary, maintained them there in spite of the Count de Frontenac.³ What especially impelled these neophytes to forsake their own land, and seek an asylum in the French colony, was a threat on the part of the Dutch (who had recovered Manhattan in 1673, and reconquered all New York, which they did not long retain), to drive the missionaries from the Mohawk canton, if they did not retire of themselves. They acted thus, because they feared every thing from the Iroquois, if that nation should become united to the French by the bond of religion.⁴

There is every appearance that from this time some intrigue was formed among these Indians to renew the war against us; for the next year, 1674,⁵ Mr. de Frontenac informed Mr. Colbert, that if the principal chiefs of the nation had not been gained by his flatteries and presents, not a single Frenchman would have been left in Canada.⁶ This was going too far; but it is certain that the Dutch underhandedly stimulated the Iroquois to take up arms,⁷

¹ Relations Inédites, ii., p. 66.

² N. Y. Colonial Documents, ix., p. 130.

³ The concession was confirmed by letters patent of the king, May 29, 1680.

⁴ Charlevoix seems to have overlooked the manuscript Relations, which must have been accessible to him at Quebec and at Paris. These assign no such cause. The debauchery prevalent in the cantons, increased by the free use of liquor,

and especially the persecution of the pagans, made it imperative on them to remove.

⁵ The Relations ascribe the hostile tone of the Iroquois to their recent overthrow of the Gandastogues: Relations Inédites, ii., pp. 44, 99.

⁶ Frontenac (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 117, 793) speaks of Dutch intrigues: Canada Documents, II., ii., p. 73.

⁷ N. Y. Colonial Documents, ix., p. 793.