

New France had for several years been in great confusion, and for some time beheld a war menacing which was capable of plunging it once more into its former miseries; moreover, its strength seemed to diminish from day to day, for at the last census of the colony, taken in 1679, it was found to contain only eight thousand five hundred and fifteen persons, without including the government of Acadia, where there was but a small population.¹ We have already seen that the Iroquois did not observe very exactly the articles of peace agreed upon with them; but these Indians did not wish to declare war on us till after they had their measures well laid to make it successfully, and they devoted themselves especially to detach our allies from us, or render them useless to us.

Several things had contributed to draw this nation down on us again. After New York returned to the power of the English, Colonel Dongan,² the governor, had paid great attention to supplying the Iroquois with goods at a lower rate than the French could do, because the company which then controlled all the fur-trade, took by preference one-fourth of the beavers, the tenth part of the leather, and other furs, and purchased all the rest at quite a moderate rate. Moreover, several untoward affairs had occurred which had soured their minds. Two Frenchmen having been killed by Indians near Lake Superior, the Sieur de Luth, into whose hands the assassins fell, shot them.³ On the other hand, several insults received from these savages had been left unpunished, and this toler-

¹ Du Chesneau in his Report, Nov. 10, 1679 (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 136), says 9,400 in Canada and 515 in Acadia. See *ib.*, p. 142.

² Thomas Dongan, the real founder of English colonial policy, was born in 1634, younger son of Sir John Dongan, an Irish baronet. After serving in the French army, he was recalled to England, and made lieutenant-governor of Tangier. He was

governor of New York from 1682 to 1688. He became Earl of Limerick in 1698, and died in London Dec. 14, 1715: O'Callaghan, *Origin of New York Assemblies*, p. 33.

³ This affair seems misplaced. Du Luth's execution of two Iroquois for killing two Frenchmen is mentioned by de la Barre in 1684: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 233.