

governor-general would reject it with contempt, and so break off all negotiation with the Iroquois cantons. 1682-3.

In fact, Mr. de Frontenac replied to the writer of the letter that he would never consent to take such a step; in the first place, because this condescension would only increase the insolence of the Iroquois: in the second place, because, even were it not against his dignity to do it, he could not undertake the voyage in a becoming manner or securely for his person without great expense: thirdly, because he had not yet seen the Kiskacons, and did not know what resolution they had taken.¹ He closed by begging the writer of the letter to use every exertion to induce the Onondagas to adopt more reasonable and respectful sentiments.

The
general's
reply.

The latter not only deemed this impossible, but even considered it dangerous to attempt it. He informed the general that the principal chiefs of the Iroquois nation, those even most attached to the French, persisted in their demand for an interview with him at the mouth of the Oswego; and that if he refused, there was every reason to fear that these Indians would proceed to some extreme measure, which he would repent not having prevented.²

At the same time that this second letter was handed to Count de Frontenac, he was secretly warned not to go to Oswego unless well attended, and that the Iroquois, contrary to their wont, had spoken of him very insolently.³

From whatever source this information came, Frontenac took great pains to give it publicity; but what seemed at last to decide him against going to Oswego was his conviction that at bottom the Iroquois esteemed him and would not make war on him. He accordingly resolved not to derogate from that hauteur with which, after the

The course
which
he adopted.

¹ Frontenac's council advised him not to go to Téchoueguen or La Famine, as the Iroquois asked, but to insist on Fort Frontenac. See opinions N. Y. Col. Doc., pp. 168-173, 174; *ib.*, p. 190; Canada Doc., I., iv., p. 61.

² N. Y. Colonial Documents, ix., p. 191.

³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 191.