

1682-3.

Effect
produced
by his
letters.

Fortunately for him his cause was carried to a tribunal where they were prepossessed in his favor; and as he followed close on the letters written against him to the court, his presence there effaced at least a part of the impression sought to be given against his conduct. It was not that Mr. de Seignelay deemed him altogether free from the faults laid to his charge; but weighing his talents in his own mind, he thought it his duty to employ them. He nevertheless gave him good advice as to his past conduct, and la Sale's misfortunes arose, as we shall see in the sequel, from not profiting by it.

Assembly
of the
notables of
the colony.

Meanwhile Mr. de la Barre had no sooner taken in hand the reins of government than he saw that New France was in an extremely delicate crisis. This obliged him to convene an assembly, to which he invited not only the intendant and bishop, but also the chief officers of the troops, several members of the superior council, the heads of subaltern jurisdictions, the superior of the seminary, and the superior of the missions. He requested them all to give him their advice as to the cause and nature of the evil, and the remedies to be applied.

It interests
the new
governor as
to the
situation of
affairs.

In the first place, it was explained to the general that the object of the Iroquois was to attract to them all the commerce of Canada, in order to transfer it to the English and Dutch of New York; that, consequently, those two nations must be regarded as our first enemies, and that, in fact, they had for a long time been unceasingly, though covertly, stimulating the cantons to a rupture with us; that those Indians, not to have too powerful antagonists to contend with, sought to amuse us while they were laboring to seduce our allies, or destroy one after another all whom they could not detach from our interests; that they had begun by the Illinois; that it was vitally important for us to save these Indians from sinking under their blows, but that was no easy matter; that the colony could at most put under arms a thousand men, and even to effect that, part of the agricultural labors must be suspended.