

1682-3. and sent it to the court.¹ It was strongly approved, and the king gave orders to send over as soon as possible two hundred soldiers. His majesty wrote to the governor-general, and in his letter, which is dated August 5, 1673, informed him that Colonel Dongan, governor of New York, would have received a very explicit order from the king of Great Britain to maintain a good understanding with the French, and that there was doubt of his obeying his instructions.² Dongan did, indeed, receive such an order, but we shall soon see that he pretended obedience only the better to deceive the French, and that he was the prime mover of the bloody war waged upon us by the Iroquois for nearly thirty years. In the same letter which we have just cited, the king recommended to Mr. de la Barre to prevent the English, as far as lay in him, from establishing themselves in Hudson's Bay, of which we had taken possession some years before, and of which it is necessary to give the reader briefly means of forming some idea.

The king
sends troops
to Canada.

Description
of
Hudson's
Bay.

After doubling the northern point of Newfoundland, steering northwestward, and coasting steadily along the land of Labrador, you advance till about 63° N. latitude, where you find a strait which bears the name of Hudson. This strait runs east and west, inclining to the northwest, and its outlet is at 64° N. At this place the sea forms a bay three hundred leagues, or thereabouts, in length, and this is what is called Hudson's Bay. Its width varies: for as you go from north to south it diminishes gradually from two hundred leagues to thirty-five. Its southern extremity is at 51°.

Nothing is more fearful than the country by which it is surrounded. On whatever side you cast your eyes, nothing can be seen but wild and uncultivated lands, precipitous rocks rising to the sky, intersected by deep ravines

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 194; ² 1683: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 200; Canada Doc., I, ii., p. 259.