

BOOK XI.

MONSIEUR DE LA BARRE was preparing for a war against the Iroquois, yet without having lost all hope of making terms with those savages, and still disposed to treat with them when he could do so with honor. Accordingly, having been informed that they were on the point of marching, to the number of 1500 men, against the Miamis and Ottawas, although they had given out that they were going to attack the Illinois only, he sent them a confidential agent,¹ who reached the great village of the Onondagas, the rendezvous of the braves, on the very eve of the day when they were to take the field.

1683.

This envoy was quite well received, and without much difficulty drew from the Iroquois a promise to suspend the expedition and send deputies to Montreal to treat with the general there; but it was soon perceived that this declaration was made simply to lull the French. They had declared that their deputies should be in Montreal before the end of June, and yet in May Mr. de la Barre received intelligence that seven or eight hundred men from the cantons of Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca were on the march to attack the Hurons, Miamis, and Ottawas; and that the Senecas, with some Cayugas, were, towards the end of summer, to scatter in bands through our settlements.²

Bad faith of
the
Iroquois

The general, in forwarding this information to the minister, advised him that this project had been formed at the instigation of the English, who employed in these ne-

Mr de la
Barre
solicits aid
from the
king.

¹ Le Moyne: De la Barre to Seignelay, Nov. 4, 1683; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 202. ² De la Barre to Seignelay, May 30, 1683; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 197.