

1683. negotiations French runaways, whose desertion they encouraged, and whom they then sold as servants to the planters in Jamaica; that, so far as he could judge of the actual disposition of the Iroquois cantons, the French must resolve absolutely to abandon Canada or make an effort to destroy at least the Senecas and Cayugas, the most bitter of all against the French, and who could easily put 2,000 men in the field; that he begged him, therefore, to induce the king to send him soon four hundred men, so that early in August, at the latest, he might enter the enemy's country with sufficient troops to bring those savages to reason; but that he deemed it necessary, before all else, to obtain from the Duke of York, to whom New York belonged, an order directing the governor of that province not to thwart him in his expedition.¹

Pride of the Iroquois. Intrigues of the governor of New York.

Some time after the vessel sailed which bore this letter, the governor-general deemed it proper to make another attempt with the cantons. He sent to ask at what time they expected that their deputies would come to Montreal to keep the promise they had given. They replied that they did not recollect having made him any promise, and that if he had any thing to impart to them, he could come to them for the purpose.² He at the same time received certain proof that the English of New York, to whom the Iroquois trade had for some years brought considerable profit, had given these Indians goods at a loss, with a view of rendering us odious to that nation, by persuading them that the French had no object but plundering them; that they stimulated them unceasingly to exterminate all the tribes with whom we traded, and that in the cantons all was preparing for waging an irreconcilable war upon us.

In reality the Iroquois found it much more advantageous

¹ De la Barre to Seignelay; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 197; Canada Doc., II., iv., p. 264, etc.

² Le Moyne was sent, and returned July 20, with thirteen Senecas, and

a promise that deputies from the other cantons would come in August: De la Barre to Seignelay, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 203.