

ment, had marched from Michillimakinac to the relief of Fort St. Louis on the first rumor of the approach of the Iroquois; but he apparently heard on the way that the siege had been raised, and at once returned to his post,¹ whence we shall soon see him set out on a more important expedition.

1684.

Meanwhile, Mr. de la Barre recovered at last, though somewhat late, from his lethargy, and now thought only of carrying on the war.² What tended most to arouse him was the information he received that all the cantons were making great preparations, and had sent ambassadors to the Indians of Virginia to assure them that they should not be attacked while they were engaged with us. This resolution adopted, the general deemed it more easy and less dangerous to anticipate these Indians by carrying the war into their country, than to drive them from the colony if they once set foot there. But as the reinforcements which he had received from France were very insignificant, and what he could still hope for would not arrive in time, he was obliged to have recourse to his Indian allies.

Mr. de la
Barre
resolves on
war.

Mr. de la Durantaye, who commanded at Michillimakinac, and Mr. du Luth, his lieutenant, who was at the bay,³ received orders to notify the nations in those parts that Ononchio was about to march to destroy the Iroquois; that he wished to begin with the Senecas, and that he invited them to join him at Niagara, whither he would proceed with all his forces about the fifteenth of August. Most of these tribes were not less interested than the French in the destruction of the Iroquois, who seemed to

¹ He kept on to Fort St. Louis with sixty men and Father Allouez: Tonty, *Memoir in Margry*, p. 22; Louisiana Hist. Col., i., p. 66.

Col. Doc., ix., p. 230; Perrot, *Mœurs et Coustumes*, p. 32) to the merchants and some of the clergy.

² De Meulles ascribed the declaration of war solely to la Chenaye and other merchants: *Dispatch* (N. Y.

³ Green Bay. He avoids the name Baie des Puants. Du Luth was at Kamalastigouia, or Fond du Lac: Perrot, *Mœurs et Coustumes*, p. 132.