

1684.  aspire to exercise a kind of domination over the whole of this great continent, and make themselves sole masters of the trade: nevertheless, de la Durantaye and du Luth had much difficulty in raising the forces according to their orders.¹

He with
difficulty
induces our
allies to
join him.

Those in the neighborhood of the bay showed the greatest reluctance, and this should have been foreseen.² There had been very exciting difficulties between them and the French, because Mr. de la Sale, to prevent any one trading in the parts reserved to him, had ordered the Indians to plunder the goods of any one who had no commission from him; and this order, which should never have been given to these barbarians, had well-nigh enkindled a bloody war between them and us. Minds were still somewhat excited on both sides, and the moment was by no means favorable for inducing these western tribes to join their forces to ours against the common enemy.

Fortunately, Nicholas Perrot, who was not far off, came to the aid of the Sieur du Luth. He showed the Indians that they were far more interested than the French in exterminating a nation which wished to give the law to all others, and from whom, after all, we had nothing to fear for ourselves.³ Thus Mr. de la Durantaye soon found himself at the head of five hundred warriors, Hurons, Ottawas, Foxes, and other Bay tribes, and of two hundred Canadians; but the assembling of this force was not all, the commander had no little to do to succeed in marching these auxiliary forces to Niagara.

Most of these Indians, I know not how, got it into their heads that Mr. de la Barre's expedition would be unsuccessful, and various accidents which happened during

¹ De Meulles to Seignelay, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 231; de la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique, ii., p. 179; Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p. 133. but the Ottawas, Kikapoos, and Sinagos, with the Green Bay tribes, refused it: Perrot, p. 133.

² The Hurons received the hatchet, 133.

³ Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p.