

the march had completely disconcerted them,¹ so that they were a hundred times on the point of disbanding. It was still worse when they reached Niagara and failed to find the general or any Frenchmen there.

1684.

These Indians do not meet Mr. de la Barre at the rendezvous, which he failed to keep.

Then they complained bitterly that they had been drawn from their country only to be delivered up to the Iroquois, and there was every reason to apprehend that they would adopt some prejudicial course.²

Their commanders, themselves unaware of the cause of this delay, wished at first to ascribe it to the head-winds which had for some time prevailed on Lake Ontario; but this resource was soon exhausted, and the intelligence, which they received a few days after, that peace had been made with the Iroquois, completely disconcerted them. They could not avoid imparting this information to the Indians, and they had everything to fear from their resentment. They escaped, however, with some reproaches, which the Indians made with a calmness that betokened far deeper resentment than if they had spoken with impetuosity.³

The chiefs told them that it was not the first time that they perceived that their interest did not enter into the enterprises of the French, except so far as we found it to our own advantage; but that they would no longer be dupes; that Ononthio would never in future draw them from their homes but when it became them, and that they would leave him to settle his differences with the Iroquois, against whom they could defend themselves well enough, without his aid, whenever attacked.

Their dissatisfaction at the tidings of peace.

La Durantaye, du Luth, and Perrot omitted no means to appease them, and flattered themselves that they had succeeded, by persuading them that they had not been

¹ Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p. l'Amérique Septentrionale, ii., p. 134; de la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., ii., p. 158, etc.

² Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p. 136; De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, ii., p. 153; Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p. 137.