

1684. forgotten in the treaty of peace just concluded ; that this peace was in part their work, since it was only the fear of having all these nations upon them that could have brought the Iroquois to terms ; and that they should be well satisfied that it had cost them so little to restore tranquillity throughout the whole land. These reasons seemed to satisfy them, and they returned home quite tranquilly.¹

Mr. de la Barre treats with the governor of New York.

But matters had passed far less honorably for Mr. de la Barre than these officers made a show of believing. That general, having made his preparations, set out from Quebec for Montreal, where the troops had orders to assemble.

While on his march he dispatched Sieur Bourdon to Colonel Dongan, governor of New York, to inform him that if he wished to avenge the blood of twenty-six Englishmen massacred in Maryland the previous winter by the Senecas, he might join him ; but that at least he reckoned enough on the promises made him in consequence of the orders from the Duke of York, to feel sure that he would in no way traverse an expedition so just as that he had now undertaken ; that it aimed to repress an insolent nation who would not spare the English if they could succeed in having nothing further to fear from the French.²

This step was not generally approved, many fearing that this negotiation would give the Iroquois all the time to fortify their towns, and enable the English, whose disposition was not doubtful, to find means of succoring these Indians ; but there was apparently in this fear some prejudice and ill-humor, and we shall see in fact that nothing contributed more to bring the Iroquois to terms than this

¹ Perrot, Mœurs et Coust., p. 138.

² De la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 240 ; de Meulles, ib., p. 246. De la Barre to Dongan, June 15, 1684, does not allude to Maryland ; the letter of July 24 does : N. Y. Doc. Hist., i., pp. 67, 69. This embassy of Bourdon in June was

followed in July by one of the Sieur de Salvaye, whose instructions are in N. Y. Doc. Hist., i., p. 70 ; N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 450, with Dongan's reply, ib., p. 71. The reply of the Senecas to Dongan in Salvaye's presence is in Colden, Hist. Five Nations, p. 74.