

conduct of Mr. de la Barre. But it is unfortunate for a man in an exalted position to have made personal enemies by ways that can be suspected of having any object but the public good, and of not knowing how to command esteem.

The general took another precaution which should naturally have secured success to his enterprise. This was to divide the cantons, so as not to have all to deal with at the same time. For this purpose he sent belts to the Onondagas, Mohawks, and Oneidas, to induce them to remain neutral between him and the Senecas, who had offended, and whom alone he proposed to attack.¹ He then dispatched the Sieur du Tast, Captain, with fifty-six² picked men, to convoy a large quantity of provisions and ammunition to Catarocouy, and guard that post, Mr. d'Orvilliers, who commanded these, having received orders early in the spring to make a reconnoissance of the enemy's territory, and select the most suitable place for a landing.

D'Orvilliers discharged his commission most satisfactorily. He was, indeed, one of the officers of the colony on whose prudence, genius, and firmness the governors-general of New France placed the greatest reliance, as long as they possessed him. All being thus arranged, the army received orders to march. It was composed of seven hundred Canadians, one hundred and thirty soldiers, and two hundred Indians, chiefly Iroquois from Sault St. Louis and Hurons from Lorette.³ It was divided into three corps, and the general left Quebec on the 9th of July⁴ at the head of the first, having with him the Baron de Bekancourt and his brother, the Chevalier de Villebon.⁵

1684.

His preparations.

The French army.

¹ De la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 239. He also seized Teganout and twelve others who came to ratify the peace: *Ib.*, N. Y. Col. Doc. Hist., i., p. 72.

² De la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 240, says five or six.

³ See Return of the troops, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 234: Dutast with 136; Dugué, van, 205; Villebon, re-

serve, 227; D'Orvilliers, rear, 214; total, 782. De Meulles says, loosely, 900 French, 300 Indians: *Ib.*, p. 245.

⁴ De la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 240, although de Meulles to Seignelay, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 232, says 10, with 200 men.

⁵ The Baron de Bekancourt is not mentioned in the return of troops.