

1684.

Information  
received  
by Mr.  
de la Barre  
on  
the march.

He reached Montreal on the 21st, and a few days later the other two corps joined him under the command of Messieurs d'Orvilliers and du Gué. All the troops embarked on the 26th or 27th, and on the 1st of August Mr. de la Barre learned, by channels that could not be suspected, that the cantons of Onondaga, Oneida, and Cayuga had obliged that of Seneca to accept them as mediators between it and the French, and asked the Sieur le Moyne to negotiate this important affair.<sup>1</sup>

The general at the same time received a letter from Onondaga, written by a very trustworthy person, which informed him that his proposed campaign against the Senecas would not cause them any great injury, however successful it might be, inasmuch as these Indians had retired to a place of safety with all their stores, and that his campaign would have no effect except to unite the whole nation against us;<sup>2</sup> but that if he would be contented with satisfaction on the part of that canton, they would be found disposed to make it, the sachems having secretly informed the writer that if the French general was willing to forget the past they would do more even than should be required of them, and would refrain from all hostilities against our allies;<sup>3</sup> that, however, if they made these advances, it was not that they deemed they had any thing to fear, inasmuch as the governor of New York had offered them four hundred horses and as many foot soldiers, if they wished to sustain the war.<sup>4</sup>

Yet there is no reason to doubt that if Colonel Dongan had kept to his offer it would have been accepted, and that Mr. de la Barre would have found himself in a very great embarrassment; but Dongan wished the Senecas to

<sup>1</sup> The younger Lamberville, from Onondaga, and Milet, from Oneida, joined him August 1: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 241.

<sup>2</sup> See Father John de Lamberville's Letters, July 10-11, *ib.*, pp. 252-3.

<sup>3</sup> Letter, July 18, 1684, *ib.*, p. 255.

<sup>4</sup> There is nothing of this in de Lamberville's letter, but de la Barre so asserts in his dispatch to the king, Nov. 13, 1684: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 243, 251.