

pay too high a price for the aid he offered, and he assumed too high a tone with a haughty tribe that never has loved or esteemed the English. This governor had begun by setting up the arms of the Duke of York throughout the whole Iroquois country.¹ He then sent to forbid the cantons, in that prince's name, styling him their sovereign, to negotiate with the French without his intervention. Finally, he dispatched to Onondaga a man named Arnaud,² with orders to propose to that canton, and through it to the other four, to profit by the aid which he was perfectly willing to give them, in order, once for all, to free themselves from the tyranny of the French.

1684.

An unlucky
manœuvre
of Colonel
Dongan
saves the
colony.

This commission, imprudently given, was executed as badly. Arnaud addressed the Onondagas as a master, and asked them whether they would not obey the governor of the province, who represented the Duke of York, their legitimate prince? This exordium shocked the Onondagas: one of their chiefs at once called heaven to witness the insult offered to the whole nation, as well as the misconduct of the English envoy, who wished to trouble the land. He then addressed Arnaud in a tone which should have made him sensible of his imprudence, and of the indignation it had awakened in his auditors:

“Learn,” he said, “that the Onondaga places himself between Ononthio, his father, and the Seneca, his brother, to prevent their fighting. I would have supposed that Corlar³ would have taken his position behind me, and exclaimed: ‘Courage, Onondaga! do not suffer the father and the son to kill each other.’ I am greatly surprised that his envoy should address me language just the reverse, and oppose my restraining the arm of both. Ar-

¹ De la Barre to the king, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 251; John de Lamberville to de la Barre, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 267; Dongan to Blaythwait, N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 363.

² Arnold Cornelisen Viele, of Alba-

ny, a well known interpreter: O'Callaghan, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 251.

³ I have already said that the Indians thus style the governor of New York. *Charlevoix*. See ante, vol. ii., p. 124.