

the Onondagas, as well as the disposition of the latter in regard to peace. He added that these Indians had induced Father de Lamberville, who was much respected in that canton, to write to the governor of New York, in order to inform him of his envoy's conduct, lest the report of that officer should be an unfaithful one.

1684.

This information was highly gratifying to Mr. de la Barre, because sickness, caused by the want or bad quality of the provisions, had reduced his little army to the most wretched state. The evil increased even to such a degree, that there was every reason to fear that he would be obliged to retire without awaiting the Iroquois delegates, a step that would undoubtedly have exposed the nation to the jeers of the Indians, and perhaps even have induced the Onondagas to change their system. Mr. de Meules, intendant of New France, informed the minister that the army would not have run out of provisions had they not uselessly lost ten or twelve days at Montreal, and two entire weeks at Catarocouy. He adds that the whole colony murmured aloud at the general's conduct.<sup>1</sup>

Extremity  
in which  
Mr. de la  
Barre finds  
himself.

It cannot, in fact, be denied that there was room for censure in the steps taken by Mr. de la Barre to make war with dignity, and still more in the manner in which peace was concluded. To bring the Iroquois to it, not only was an eagerness displayed which these Indians perceived but too soon, but he suffered them to put it at the very highest price, and give us in every respect the law. It is true that the condition in which the deputies from the cantons found our army gave them to understand at once that we were not in a condition to inflict great injury on the Senecas; but it was not difficult to persuade them that we were not reduced to what they beheld, and this should have been done. They found Mr. de la Barre encamped on the shore of Lake Ontario, four or five leagues from the mouth of the river towards Montreal, in a bay to which the extreme

He makes  
peace on  
dishonor-  
able  
conditions.

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 242-5.