

in a condition to dictate terms to those from whom he had just received them. These troops were commanded by Messieurs de Montortier and Desnos, captains of ships of the line, to whom some Memoirs add a third, namely, Mr. du Rivau,¹ but the king's letter which they handed to the governor-general does not mention him.

1684.

This letter expressed that it was his majesty's intention that Messrs. de Montortier and Desnos should command in the most advanced and important posts of the colony; and it seemed, even, from the terms of the letter, that their authority there was to be independent of Mr. de la Barre. This gave that general's enemies occasion to say that these two officers were surveillants whom the king had sent to scrutinize his conduct; but it is much more natural to believe that his majesty, deeming Mr. de la Barre engaged in a difficult war, and convinced that his advanced age did not allow him to proceed easily to every place where the presence of a chief officer would be necessary, had sent them to him as men to whom he could transfer many of his cares.

This letter is dated August 5th. In another, dated on the last day of July, the king says to de la Barre: "As it benefits my service to reduce the Iroquois in number as much as possible, and as, too, these savages, who are very strong and robust, will serve usefully in my galleys, it is my will that you do everything in your power to make a great number of them prisoners of war and ship them to France."² It was too late to think of fulfilling this order when Mr. de la Barre received it. I do not know whether in the sequel the order was repeated to his successor, or served as a rule for him, when the war was renewed with

¹ La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 57, mentions the three as arriving at Quebec to pass the winter and serve as counsellors to de la Barre; and that the third brought a free company, which he commanded in person. He mentions their examining posts, p. 62, and return, p. 68. Hé-nault des Rivaux is mentioned by Belmont, Histoire du Canada, p. 17, as governor of Montreal in 1684.

² N. Y. Colonial Documents, ix., p. 233.