

1684.

peated to this new general, for in the letter just cited he thus alludes to the subject: "It was long believed that it was necessary to draw the Indians near us to frenchify them; there is every reason to acknowledge that it was a mistake. Those who have approached us have not become French, and the French who frequented them have become savages. They affect to dress and live like them. It is not so with the Indians assembled in villages amid the colony. Nothing is better regulated."¹ He adds, in conclusion, that he found the colony totally unprotected.² This was an old complaint, renewed from year to year, and always in vain.

I have already observed that in clearing new land the colonists thought only of settling apart from each other, so as to be able to extend more, without reflecting that this prevented mutual assistance, and by embracing an immense territory, compared to the scanty population contained in the colony, no one could be safe from the enemy's insults; but in vain did the court issue orders to remedy this great evil, and to reduce the parishes to towns: it was never able to enforce them. Every one feared for the public in general, and no one feared for himself in particular. Nor did experience even make those wiser who had fallen victims to their own imprudence. They made up their losses when they were in a condition to do so; those which could not be repaired were soon forgotten, and the prospect of a slight temporary interest blinded all to the future. This is the genuine character of the Indians, and men seem to inhale it with the atmosphere of their country.

The information acquired by the new governor as to the affairs of Canada,³ to which he devoted himself seriously

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 277. For an account of the missions at this time, from actual visitation, see Mgr. St. Valier, *Etat Présent*, pp. 47-70.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 280.
³ Charlevoix says little of the internal condition of Canada itself. Mr. de Meules did much to improve Quebec. He turned an old brewery,