

during the winter, confirmed him in the opinion that we never could make sincere friends of the Iroquois, and that to avoid having always on our hands a troublesome and dangerous enemy, they must, at any cost, be destroyed or humiliated and weakened to such a point as to be compelled to seek our alliance and adhere to it. He was, above all, convinced that there was only this means of maintaining commerce, which they might calculate on soon beholding reduced to nothing, if things remained any short time in their actual condition; and that the Iroquois alone arrested the progress of the gospel among the Indians, a point which touched the Marquis de Dénouville at least as much as the care of preserving the colony.<sup>1</sup>

1684.

On the other hand, all Acadia and the neighboring coasts were exposed to the incursions of the English, and Mr. de Meulles, who had proceeded thither the year previous in order to make a visitation of them, had found that fine country and all the French settlements in the utmost desolation.<sup>2</sup>

Radisson was still at the head of the English in Hudson's Bay, and it was almost impossible for the French to trade any longer in the North; nor, in fine, was commerce more free in the West, since the Senecas had drawn the English to Niagara, whence the latter, by means of the lakes, from which they cut off our communication, could extend their trips as far as Michillimakinac. They had even already begun to show themselves in the vicinity of that post, and they labored earnestly, by means of the Iroquois, to debauch from us the Indians of those parts, who were our greatest resource in the fur-trade.

To protect New France from a misfortune which was not

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abandoned since Talon's day, into a palace for the intendant. The ruins of an old storehouse made way for the church of Our Lady of Victory; but, October 20, 1686, the Ursuline Convent was destroyed by fire: St.

Valier, *Etat Présent*; Les Ursulines de Quebec, i., p. 430.

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 299, 320, etc.

<sup>2</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 285; Canada Documents, II., iv., p. 321.