

ground of expense, suggested to the minister to establish a farm, the capital of which should be the exclusive trade of the post, which would soon become the centre of all the Canadian trade. He averred that in time this farm would afford the king very considerable sums, without doing any injury to the settlers in New France, inasmuch as all the furs that would be obtained at Niagara would otherwise go to the English. Nor was Mr. de Dénouville the only one who thought so, for the Company of Quebec Merchants for Northern Trade earnestly solicited this privilege, binding themselves, in case it were granted, to supply the warehouses at Niagara with all the goods that could be exchanged for furs, to renew the lease every nine years, and to pay his majesty for the privilege a sum of 30,000 livres a year. We shall shortly see what prevented the fulfillment of this project.¹

1686.

About a month after writing this letter, the general received one from Colonel Dongan, dated May 22d, stating in substance that the great collection of provisions made at Catarocouy induced the Iroquois to think that there was a design of declaring war against them; that these tribes being subjects of the British crown, to attack them would be a manifest infraction of the peace between the two kings; that he had also learned that there was a design of building a fort at Niagara, and that this information had given him the greater astonishment, as they could not be ignorant in Canada that all that country was within the dependence of New York.

Letter from
the
governor of
New York
to Mr.
Dénouville.

The reply of Mr. de Dénouville was, that the Iroquois feared chastisement because they felt guilty; that, nevertheless, the supplies sent to Catarocouy need not have alarmed them; that having always a large garrison in that post, and opportunities for forwarding supplies not occurring frequently, it was necessary when they did arise to avail of them to send up considerable convoys; that it

General's
reply.

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 290.