

1686. might well be that some French deserters had originated or supported the suspicions of the Iroquois, but that the reports of these vagabonds deserved no credit, the more especially as they were interested in sowing trouble and division between the two colonies; that England had no foundation for its pretensions to the sovereignty of the Iroquois country, and that they must know that the French had taken possession of it before there were any English in New York; that, moreover, the two monarchs, their masters, living in perfect understanding, it did not become the lieutenants-general to seek to trouble it.¹

In this step of Colonel Dongan there was nothing to surprise the Marquis de Dénouville. The whole conduct of that officer, from his taking office, had convinced the French that they should always find him in their way, and they were well informed that he would lose no opportunity of stirring up the Iroquois against them; but they did not, perhaps, yet know all they had to fear from so dangerous a neighbor, whom all the authority of the Duke of York, on whom he depended immediately, could never induce, even after that prince ascended the throne, to remain a calm spectator of all that occurred between us and the Iroquois. In fine, they were soon after enlightened by a channel above suspicion.²

Enterprise
of Colonel
Dongan.

During the summer information arrived that the Iroquois had made an irruption into the Saguinam, a very deep bay on the western shore of Lake Huron, and had attacked the Ottawas of Michillimakinac, whose ordinary hunting-ground it was.³ Father de Lamberville discovered at Onondaga that this hostility was the fruit of a deliberation of all the cantons, whose deputies Colonel Dongan had convoked at Albany; that he had warned

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., pp. 455-8; Maryland: Colden, pp. 48-62, etc. Doc. Hist., i., pp. 128-9. ³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 293, 296.

² Dongan held many conferences with the Five Nations in regard to their inroads into Virginia and Perrot makes no allusion to it. Seventy Hurons and thirty-six Ottawas were carried off.