

them that the new general of the French was resolved to declare war against them; that he exhorted them to anticipate it, to plunder the French and their allies wherever they found them, adding that they would easily effect this, as they would find them off their guard; and that he had assured them that, come what would, he would not forsake them.

1686.

The missionary had been warned of all these intrigues by the Christian Iroquois, and even by idolaters, who loved him greatly. He had been unable to prevent the meeting held at Albany, but he had labored successfully to divert a part of the tempest formed there, and, after obtaining a promise from the head sachems of the Onondaga canton that they would never consent to any enterprise during his absence, he set out to inform Mr. de Dénouville of all that he knew. Dongan, who was soon informed of his departure, guessed the reason, and it was then that he wrote to the French general the letter recently mentioned, and which arrived before Father de Lamberville.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time he sent expresses to all the cantons to hasten the execution of the design conceived at Albany, and he summoned the Onondaga cantons to deliver up to him Father James de Lamberville, brother of the one who had gone to Quebec, and left by him as a hostage in that canton.<sup>2</sup> He did more: he undertook to seduce from us the Iroquois Christians of Sault St. Louis and the Mountain, sending them word that he would give them, in his jurisdiction, a tract where they would be better and more safely situated than in the French colony; and as he was not ignorant that they were retained in our interest chiefly by the fear of losing their religion among the English, he gave them on this point every assurance that they could desire, adding that the king, his master, as well as himself,

<sup>1</sup> Dénouville's *Memoire*, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 296; *Doc. Hist.*, i., p. 133.

<sup>2</sup> Dénouville to Seignelay, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 297; *Doc. Hist.*, i., p. 133.