

the colony; nor was much dependence to be placed on the regular troops, who were little used to war, for the most part ill armed, and who had no knowledge of the mode of carrying on war in America. It was, consequently, of necessity to dissemble till reinforcements arrived which were expected from France; and the only point was to seek pretexts to cover all these preparations.¹ 1686.

The first thing to which the governor-general turned his attention was to send Father de Lamberville back to his mission, and he loaded him with presents for all the Onondaga chiefs whom he had most hope of gaining and preserving in our interest. It was time that the missionary made his appearance in that canton, the governor of New York having profited by his absence to revive in the minds of the Indians fears of a French incursion when they least expected it. He had persuaded them that Father de Lamberville did not wish to be among them when the troops of his canton came to bear fire and sword through their towns, and that he would take care never to appear there again. In a word, he had negotiated so successfully that all the cantons had assembled, and a part of the warriors were already on the march when that religious appeared once more at Onondaga.

Father de
Lamberville
prevents
the Iroquois
from com-
mencing
hostilities.

His presence in a moment changed the face of affairs. He spoke to the chiefs with that frankness and that insinuating manner that had won him the esteem and affection of that nation; he dissipated almost all the suspicions that had been instilled into them, and the presents, seasonably distributed, completing what his suavity of manner had successfully begun, the warriors were recalled, and no more was said of a rupture with the French. The rest of the summer was spent in negotiations, sometimes to exchange the prisoners made on both sides, and sometimes to bring our allies back to sentiments more suited to their real interest.² Those entrusted with the last part

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 269-300. Albany for removal of French, N.

² See Petition of Commissioners of Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 418.