

1686. succeeded so that they induced the Hurons and the Ottawas of Michillimakinac to come down to Catarocouy to confer with the governor-general.

Disposition
of that
nation.

Towards the end of September Father de Lamberville again returned to Quebec, to report to the Marquis de Dénonville the disposition in which the Iroquois actually were. He told him that the Onondagas alone had given up the prisoners taken from our allies, and that the Senecas had pleaded as an excuse that their captives would not return to their tribes. This report confirmed the general in the opinion that it was time lost to negotiate with that nation. Hé had even already decided on his course; but he would not disclose it to the missionary; he merely let him see that he was resolved to drive the Senecas to the wall.¹

“That Father,” he says in a letter which he wrote to Mr. du Seignelay, under the date of November 8, “loves these Indians greatly, although in daily danger of being killed by drunkards; nevertheless, he admits that there are no hopes of their conversion unless they are humbled; that their only design is to destroy the other Indians in order then to fall upon us, and this is the policy of Colonel Dongan. That governor lavishes great kindness on our deserters, from whom he derives great services, and I am, myself, obliged to manage them, till I am in a position to punish them. I have sent back Father de Lamberville with orders to convoke all the Iroquois nations at Catarocouy next spring to talk over our affairs, and as it is necessary to have a faithful interpreter, and as the Recollect Fathers, chaplains of that post, do not know the language, and all our interpreters, except a son of Sieur le Moyne’s, are ignorant fellows, I have selected Father Milet, and I have requested the Recollect Fathers to yield the place to him till the war is ended, promising to restore it to them. Father de Lamberville is to send me back his brother, in

¹ Dénonville to Seignelay, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 297-8; Doc. Hist., i., 133.