

such remote parts would be a continual source of hostilities on both sides, and a dangerous temptation for numbers of libertines, whom the least subject of dissatisfaction would induce to take refuge at Port Nelson.

1686.

He added that the English merchants, paying higher for beaver than the French, would always have the preference, and consequently would almost monopolize the trade; that in case it was deemed advisable to make a compromise in Hudson's Bay between the subjects of the two crowns, it was better to withdraw Port Nelson from the hands of the English and restore them the three forts just captured from them; that all three were not, by far, worth Port Nelson alone for trading purposes; and that on the first rupture it would be very easy to retake them by an overland march, as the Chevalier de Troye had done.

In the spring of the ensuing year the governor-general received an order from the king which would have been more efficacious in avoiding all the disadvantages which the general wished to avoid, and to reduce the Iroquois to tranquillity, than the most successful expedition, had the English, who solicited it, acted in good faith. "Having been informed," said his majesty, "by Mr. de Barillon, my ambassador extraordinary to the king of England, that the ministers of his Britannic majesty had proposed to him a treaty of neutrality between my subjects and his in the islands and countries on the mainland of America; and considering that I could do nothing more advantageous to my said subjects than to secure them the means of carrying on trade, cultivating the ground, and advancing their settlements uninterruptedly, I would have accepted this proposition, and sent to said Sieur de Barillon the necessary powers to conclude this treaty, which has been happily terminated on the 13th of the month of September last. I dispatch this letter to make known my intention that you should publish and register it in the sovereign council of Quebec, and that you give exact attention to its

Treaty of  
neutrality  
between the  
English  
and  
French for  
America.