

1687. can justify the perfidy resorted to in treating with them.

It is at least certain that the king, in his order to Mr. de la Barre to send them to the galleys, spoke only of such as should be made prisoners of war, always taking the ground that they were revolted subjects.

The leading  
Iroquois  
chiefs  
taken by  
surprise and  
sent to the  
galleys.

Be that as it may, Mr. de Dénonville believed himself justified in using all possible means to weaken and intimidate savages whose perfidy, unheard of cruelty, and conduct on all occasions rendered unworthy of being treated with any regard of ordinary rules. On this principle, and not reflecting sufficiently that he owed to himself what he deemed not due to the Iroquois, he, before declaring war, under various pretexts, allured several of the leading chiefs to Catarocouy, and when they arrived put them in chains. He then sent them under a strong guard to Quebec, with orders to the commandant to send them in the ships to France, to be conveyed to the galleys.<sup>1</sup> In this it cannot be denied that he committed several faults, which cannot be excused by saying that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the Indians, and gave himself up too completely to bad advice.

Evil con-  
sequences of  
this step.

The first is, that to draw the Iroquois chiefs into the snare he employed the two missionary Fathers, de Lamberville and Milet, from whom he had concealed his de-

<sup>1</sup> Charlevoix, misled apparently by la Hontan and Frontenac (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 464), misplaces and confounds this matter. The seizure of these Indians was carried out by Champigny, who led the van of the army, in June, 1687, to Catarocouy. The Indians taken were not chiefs invited to conference: Champigny, Letter July 16, 1687, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 332; Dénonville, *ib.*, p. 360; St. Valier, *Etat Présent*, pp. 91-2. Some were Indians taken by Champigny on his way, and treated as spies; others were Iroquois residing at Kenté, etc. Belmont, His-

toire du Canada, p. 20,<sup>f</sup> says forty men and eighty women and children were taken from Ganeyoussé, Kenté, and Catarocksy; the men with Horchouassé, a Cayuga, being sent to the galleys. Mgr. de St. Valier says, loosely, nearly two hundred were taken, p. 92. The army moved June 11. Oureouaté was taken by Péré June 19th. Those seized at Catarocouy were taken about July 3; and Lamberville reached Dénonville June 29 (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 353, 362), and must have left Onondaga before news of the seizures could have reached there.