

missionary always maintained for him gives every reason to infer that he regarded him as his deliverer.

All was ready to begin the war when Mr. de Dénonville declared his intentions in the manner we have just described. His plans were quite well arranged, and it must be conceded that if the result of the expedition did not altogether meet his expectations, this was more his misfortune than his fault. The Chevalier de Tonty, returning from a voyage which he had made to the mouth of the Micissipi to seek tidings of Mr. de la Sale, being at Montreal in the month of July of the preceding year, had received orders to return at once to the Illinois,¹ and there to proclaim war and assemble all of those Indians that he possibly could, and to lead them down in June of this year to the vicinity of the Senecas, in the direction of the Andastes and the Ohio; then to send out small parties in order to spread alarm through the enemy and cut off the retreat of their women and children, which it was believed they could do securely only in that direction.²

The Indians around (Green) Bay were greatly incensed against the Iroquois, who had quite recently carried off a considerable number of their women. The Marquis de Dénonville did not fail to profit by the fortunate moment to induce them to swell his army. Still, he did not deem it advisable to disclose his whole project to them; but he begged them to join Mr. du Luth, whom he directed to intrench himself at the head of the strait (Detroit) towards Lake Huron, an important post for the assemblage and

1687.

Plan of
campaign
against the
Senecas.

¹ Memoir of the Sieur de Tonty in Margry, pp. 23-4; Louisiana Hist. Col., i., p. 67; Dénonville to Seignelay, November 8, 1686, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 301. Dénonville's letter informed Tonty that la Salle was at the mouth of the Mississippi. He started from Michillimakinac on St. Andrew's day, and went by way of Chicago to Fort St. Louis. He left it February 16, reached the gulf,

and wished his men to coast around to New York. He reached Montreal at the end of July, and started in September for Illinois, which he reached in December. The Indians assembled at the fort in April, marched on the 17th, and on the 19th May were at the fort of Detroit.

² Tonty's Memoir in Margry, pp. 23-5. The allusion to the Andastes is unfounded.