

1687. security of the different parties who were to come from all quarters of Canada to the general rendezvous of the army.

Boisguillot and Nicholas Perrot, who were trading near the Micissippi, were notified to be at Michillimakinac at a time appointed, with all the French who were in their company or vicinity, except such as it might be necessary to leave to protect their property; and to notify the Sioux that if, during their absence, they molested our allies in the least, they should be made to repent it bitterly.¹

Finally, Mr. de la Durantaye, who still commanded at Michillimakinac, and who, by his wisdom, vigilance, firm yet mild conduct, had won the esteem and affection of all the Indians settled around that post, had orders to assemble all these different bodies of troops and lead them to Niagara, there to reconnoitre the country well and harass the enemy while awaiting the army, in case he was the first to arrive; but to make a distinction in favor of the Onondagas, and content himself with making them prisoners, both because they had acted better than the other Iroquois and to serve as exchanges for the two Fathers de Lamberville, in case those two missionaries should not have had time to withdraw from that canton before the declaration of war.²

All this was successfully accomplished, except that the Chevalier de Tonti could bring down only eighty Illinois of the six or seven hundred on whom he had reckoned, because they heard that the Senecas were in the field to dash down upon their villages. The information was true; but this party having been informed by an envoy of the governor of New York that the French were on the point of entering their canton in arms, was compelled to retrace its steps. Meanwhile Tonti, seeing himself too slenderly attended to carry out all that Mr. de Dénonville had pre-

¹ Perrot, *Mœurs et Coustumes des Sauvages*, pp. 138, 303.

² Dénonville to Seignelay, June 8, 1687, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 327.