

scribed, had no alternative but to join Mr. du Luth at the entrance of Detroit River.<sup>1</sup> 1687.

Nor was it without great difficulty that the majority of the other Indians were induced to take up arms for this expedition. The Hurons and Ottawas had even been on the point of contracting an alliance with the Iroquois, and although de la Durantaye and du Luth, who were at the head of a pretty considerable number of French, kept them in awe, still, had not the missionaries found means to win over the two leading chiefs of these nations, there can be no doubt but that they would have then joined the Senecas or remained inactive. The governor-general reported to the minister that these Fathers had on this occasion warded off the greatest misfortune that could befall the colony.<sup>2</sup> He contributed not a little himself, for the two chiefs of whom I have spoken having, at the persuasion of the missionaries, come down to meet him, he succeeded, by his winning manners, in binding them to his interest.

The missionaries prevent the Hurons and Ottawas from joining the Iroquois.

All these arrangements were made, and in part carried out, before the declaration of war, without the Iroquois learning what was preparing against them. The first tidings which they received through Colonel Dongan produced no other effect than to make them a little more watchful of our operations; and even then they soon calmed down. The departure of the younger Father de Lamberville, which had been colored with a plausible pretext, had not opened their eyes; and the presence of the elder, who seemed very tranquil, and who in fact was utterly unsuspecting, reassured them absolutely.

Supineness of the Iroquois during our preparations.

Meanwhile the governor of New York unceasingly kept using every means to rouse them from this lethargy, and seeing that he could not succeed, he turned his attention

Colonel Dongan rouses them from this supineness.

<sup>1</sup> Dénonville to Seignelay, August 25, 1687, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 339; Tonty's Memoir, L. H. Col., i., pp. 68-9.

<sup>2</sup> Dénonville to Seignelay, June 8, 1687, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 325. Father Enjalrau was the superior of these western missionaries.