

1687. Dongan written nearly in the same tone that that governor was accustomed to assume where the Iroquois were concerned; that is to say, that he made great complaints of the French making war on the subjects of the king of England. He added that Mr. de la Barre had deemed it a duty not to undertake such an expedition without previously informing him.

Colonel Dongan's letter to Mr. de Dénonville.

The general's reply.

Mr. de Dénonville replied¹ that they were very far from agreeing, if he regarded the Iroquois as subjects of his Britannic majesty; and as to the course of Mr. de la Barre, on which he pretended to rely, he must inform him that it was not an example for him to follow. He spoke all the more firmly, as he had just learned, through the Sieur de la Forêt, some tidings which completely unmasked the governor of New York.² The affair in question was this:

Defeat of the English on Lake Huron.

On Lake Huron Mr. de la Durantaye had fallen in with sixty Englishmen, divided in two bands, escorted by Senecas, led by a French deserter,³ and carrying goods to trade at Michillimakinac. This was in formal violation of the agreement between the two crowns, as Colonel Dongan well knew. Accordingly, de la Durantaye did not hesitate to attack the convoy. All in charge of it were taken, and their goods distributed among the Indians. There is no doubt that, had these traders reached Michillimakinac while the commandant was absent, they would again have induced the Indians to take sides with the Iroquois, or at

of the Voyage, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 362. This Memoir details his march.

¹ Dénonville, in the Memoir, does not mention receiving this letter. See in N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., pp. 464-5; Doc. Hist., i., pp. 144-5; Dongan to Lamberville, May 20; Dongan to Dénonville, June 11; Dénonville to Dongan, August 22, N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 469; Doc. Hist., i., p. 159.

² Dénonville's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 303.

³ La Fontaine Marion. There were two parties, one taken before Tonty reached Detroit, the other after: Tonty, Memoire in Margry, p. 25. Mgr. de St. Valier states, Etat Présent, p. 92, that one of the parties, running out of provisions, sent the guide to Michillimakinac. Father Enjalran learned all from him, and warned la Durantaye, who went out, took them, and brought them all to Michillimakinac, and then to Toucharontion.