

1687. Dénouville from carrying out the project he had formed of a second expedition against the Senecas ; moreover, he could now less than ever count upon the Indians of the western parts, especially on the Hurons of Michillimakinac, for he had discovered that these last kept up secret correspondence with the Iroquois, even before the preceding campaign, although during it they did their duty quite well.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the English were waging open war upon us on the coast of Acadia,<sup>2</sup> and there could be no doubt that they were always ready to aid our enemies when we wished to attack them.

What prevents Mr. de Dénouville from marching against the Senecas a second time.

Reflections on this governor's administration.

The general's greatest embarrassments came from the orders which he received from the court, to give them no cause of complaint ;<sup>3</sup> but these orders, doubtless, presupposed that the English on their side would act in the same spirit towards us, but this was not so. It is certain that a firmer and more lofty attitude with neighbors of that stamp, who observed none of the articles of the treaty of neutrality, would not have been disapproved. It is not disobedience to a sovereign to interpret his will, and do what he would do himself were he informed of the actual state of affairs. This is especially true in a remote colony, where a governor-general may suppose that his master does not require of him a blind obedience, and where he must know that it is for him to harmonize the interests of the state and the glory of the prince with the instructions which he receives. Louis XIV. more than once so explained his instructions, even with regard to the commandants of distant posts ; but Mr. de Dénouville did not sufficiently reflect on this.

Moreover, he did not personally make himself sufficiently acquainted with the affairs of the country, or rather all

and spotted fever broke out. Sillery was depopulated, one hundred and thirty having died. Belmont, Hist. du Canada, p. 28, puts deaths at seventeen hundred.

<sup>1</sup> Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, p. 143 ; la Hontan, i., p. 113.

<sup>2</sup> Williamson's Maine, i., p. 583.

<sup>3</sup> Louis XIV. to Dénouville, June 17, 1689, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 330.