

1688. your guard for fear of some new treachery on the part of your enemies, and secretly to make your preparations to burst down on them by Lake Champlain and Catarocouy when you are obliged to renew the war.”¹

These
Indians re-
new his
hostilities.

The Iroquois deputies understood all that the governor wished them to infer, and remained quite tranquil during the rest of the winter. As soon as the navigation of the rivers was open, Mr. de Dénonville sent a great convoy to Catarocouy,² with orders to the officer in command to ascertain the condition in which the garrison at Niagara might be, and to send a reinforcement there, should it be necessary. This convoy reached its destination quite safely; but as those who had conducted it were returning to Montreal, twenty-five or thirty Iroquois surprised one of their canoes, and cut off the heads of two men in sight of the commandant, who, instead of rushing to the relief of the wretched men, destroyed seventeen of his canoes, in order to increase the crews of the rest and escape more easily.³ Mr. de Dénonville gives in one of his letters a different account, apparently as reported to him by the officer. He simply states that five men of this convoy having straggled somewhat to hunt, were killed by the Iroquois.

Negotia-
tions with
the
Onondagas.

It was evident that these savages would no longer listen to propositions of peace; and the governor-general, who saw himself in no position to carry on war, was greatly embarrassed. The only resource left him was to gain over the Onondagas, and detach them from the league. He wrote to Father de Lamberville, who was still at Catarocouy, to which he had been carried over the ice in almost

¹ This was, of course, a hearsay account that reached Canada. It is given in N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 390; but see Dongan's Address, N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 533. He asked them

whether they would consent to an armistice for fifteen months, or would continue the war, "I to joyne

you with what power will be necessary."

² This was under Mr. de Ste. Hélène; Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 27.

³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 390. Belmont says Ste. Hélène was attacked at Tonihata, and had four men