

1688.

citing his fears. They conducted him as far as Lake St. Francis, where he met another body of Iroquois as numerous as the former. Both halted at this point, and allowed la Perelle, with the deputies, to proceed to Montreal alone. There they found the governor-general, who at once gave them audience. Haaskouaun, who was the spokesman, began by describing in extremely emphatic terms the advantageous position in which his nation stood, the weakness of the French, and the ease with which the cantons might exterminate them, or force them to leave Canada.

“For my part,” he added, “I have always loved them, and I have just given an unequivocal proof; for on learning the design formed by our warriors to come and burn your forts, your houses, your barns, and your grain, in order that, reducing you to famine, they might make short work with you, I have so well argued in your favor that I have obtained permission to warn Ononthio that he might avoid this misfortune by accepting peace on the conditions proposed by Corlar. And then I can give you but four days to decide, for if you delay longer to adopt your course, I cannot answer for the consequences.”¹ This Indian was a Seneca,² and the same who had spoken so insolently to Mr. de la Barre at Camp de la Famine.

Consternation
of
the colony.

So haughty an address, and twelve hundred Iroquois at Lake St. Francis, whence they could in less than two days fall upon the island of Montreal, filled all minds with consternation. To crown the misfortunes, information had just come in of the death of the Chevalier de Troye and all his garrison; and it was known that from Sorel River to Laprairie de la Magdeleine, the settlers durst not leave their houses for fear of falling into some hostile party. What most embarrassed the Marquis de Dénonville was the fear that, by repulsing these parties with open force, he would break off the negotiations already begun with the Onondagas, to whom he had restored several prison-

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 390.

² He was an Onondaga: Ante, p. 254.