

ers ; he had even made one of them the bearer of the conditions on which he was willing to treat with that canton.

1688.

These prisoners, on arriving at Catarocouy, found the fort invested by eight hundred Iroquois, who had already burned all the hay with fiery arrows, and killed all the cattle. Lake Ontario, too, was all covered with the enemy's canoes, which, to the number of four hundred, attacked a bark conveying men and provisions to Niagara. Two canoes even attempted to board it ; but two volleys from swivels, fired at the right moment, drove them off, and the wind springing up, bore the bark out of danger.¹

Fortunately the chief in command of the force blockading Catarocouy, was uncle of the Indian prisoner sent by the governor-general to make his intentions known to the Onondagas. This chief was not insensible to the liberty given to his nephew, and his gratitude induced him to draw off with all his troops. Catarocouy was thus relieved at the very moment when they despaired of saving it.

On the 8th of June, deputies from Onondaga, Oneida, and Cayuga arrived at Montreal, and asked peace in the name of the whole nation. These two unexpected events convinced the whole colony that Providence watched in a special manner over its preservation. The general, on his side, deemed it a duty to show more reluctance as his enemies took steps to approach him. He replied that he would willingly consent to peace, but that he would grant it only on these conditions : 1st. That all his allies should be included ; 2d. That the Mohawk and Seneca cantons should also send deputies for the same object ; 3d. That all hostilities should cease on both sides ; 4th. That he should be at perfect liberty to revictual Fort Catarocouy.²

New
proposi-
tions
of peace.

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 395 ; Abstract of letters, August 10, November 6, 1688.

² In the N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 384, is a declaration of the Iroquois

in presence of Mr. de Dénonville at Montreal, June 15, 1688, signed in behalf of the Oneidas, Cayugas, and Onondagas by Otreouaté, Garacontié, Orehouâé, Otatcheté, etc.