

him that he had given orders to his envoy to withdraw all French prisoners from the Iroquois villages through which he might pass, and that it would not depend on him if there was not a perfect concert between them. Still, besides the hostile act just mentioned, the Iroquois soon appeared in our settlements, which had been stripped of men to strengthen the Catarocouy convoy. On the first tidings of this, the general called together all the troops left near his person, and marched to scatter these small parties. The enemy did not await him; but he pursued them and overtook some at Lake du St. Sacrement. He rescued from their hands two Frenchmen whom they were carrying off, killed some Mohegans, and took some Mohawks. From them he learned that Colonel Dongan had urged them to make this irruption, and had furnished them for the purpose with munitions and arms. Yet he had already received letters from the king, his master, to renew the treaty of neutrality, and that prince had warned him that he should answer in his own individual name for all contraventions committed against the treaty.¹

The vigor and promptitude thus displayed by Mr. de Dénouville in arresting the course of these hostilities, obliged the Iroquois to keep themselves quiet, and the French availed themselves of it to gather their harvest. "God alone," wrote that general to Mr. de Seigneley, on the 10th of August, "could have preserved Canada this year. I have no merit in it: Mr. de Callières will tell you better than I can write how necessary Father de Lamber-ville has been to us, with what ability he has averted the storm which menaced us, in what a manner he sways the minds of these Indians, who are more clear-sighted than men think. If you do not find means of restoring these Fathers to their former mission, you must expect many misfortunes for this colony, for I must tell you that

1688.

Bad faith of
Colonel
Dongan.

To whom
Mr. de
Dénouville
attributed
the
salvation of
Canada.

¹ This prompt action of Dénouville is not mentioned in the Relation of the Events of the War: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 391. Charlevoix derived it probably from the letter of August 10.