

“that no better idea can be conceived of them than 1688.
 to represent these barbarians as savage beasts scattered
 through a vast forest, whence they ravage all the neigh-
 boring countries. The colonists assemble to give them
 chase, inquire their retreat, and it is everywhere; they
 must be awaited with your hand on the trigger, and they
 are long awaited. They can be hounded only with hounds,
 and Indians are the only dogs that can be used for the
 purpose; but they are failing us, and the few that we have
 are not to be depended on; they are afraid of approach-
 ing the enemy, and dare not provoke him. The course
 that has been adopted has been to build forts in each
 seigneurie as a refuge for the people and their cattle;
 moreover, the tilled lands lie far apart, and are so sur-
 rounded by woods, that at each field a corps of troops
 would be needed to support the field laborers. The sole
 and only means of making war was, to have troops enough
 to advance on the enemy by three routes at once; but to
 effect this would require four thousand men and provisions
 for two years, with four or five hundred batteaux, and all
 the other details of such an outfit, for to be obliged as we
 are to live from hand to mouth, is a sure way to build up
 nothing solid.”¹

The king was certainly not disposed to send to Canada
 the number of troops asked by the Marquis de Dénon-
 ville.² Many people even in the country were convinced,
 that to reduce the Iroquois, it required only a little more
 discipline in the troops at his disposal; and we shall see,
 before the close of this history, that if they did not succeed
 with the colonial forces alone, it was because it was not
 earnestly desired. It also seems that the general's alarmed
 imagination, or that of those to whose counsels he lis-
 tened had somewhat magnified the objects; but it is cer-
 tain that if the disorders of which he complained had been

Reflections
 on this
 letter.

¹ Abstract of dispatches: N. Y. is not the time to think of that war.
 Col. Doc., ix., p. 395. The king's forces are too much oc-

² The minister's minute is: "This occupied elsewhere:" *Ib.*