

1666. and knowledge of the country afforded them, nor of burning what grain they could not carry away.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, Mr. de Tracy did not deem it proper to make sure of them by a good fort: he only wished to humble them, and teach them that the French were able to subdue them if they chose, and he succeeded. Convinced, moreover, that by means of the forts which he had erected on the river Sorel, he had sufficiently shielded the colony from inroads of the Iroquois, he judged it more advisable to fortify and increase the establishments on the St. Lawrence; and this was all that he could do with the troops at his disposal.

The court does not wish the colony too greatly extended.

This was one of the points most expressly recommended to de Courcelles and Talon. "One of the things which has proved the greatest obstacle to the peopling of Canada," said Mr. Colbert in the instructions which he gave to the Intendant, "has been, that the settlers planted their habitations where they pleased, and without taking the precaution of adjoining each other, to give mutual aid and succor. Hence these settlements, being scattered on all sides, found themselves exposed to the ambuscades of the Iroquois. For this reason, the king, two years since, issued a decree of his council, which commanded that thenceforward no land should be cleared except in the immediate vicinity of former clearings; and that the settlements should, as far as possible, be reduced to the form of our parishes. This decree has remained ineffectual, because to bring the settlers into villages, would subject them to make new clearings and abandon their old farms. Still, as it was an evil to which a remedy was to be sought, his majesty left it to the prudence of the Sieur Talon to consult with the Sieur de Courcelles and the officers of the Sovereign Council as to the means of carrying out his wishes."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettre Nov. 12, 1666.

<sup>2</sup> Colbert to Talon, N. Y. Col. Doc. ix., p. 27.