


1690.  bout de Mantet¹ and le Moyne de Sainte Helène, under whom Messrs. de Repentigny,² d'Iberville, de Bonrepos, de la Brosse, and de Montigni, desired to serve as volunteers.

This party was soon ready, and took the field³ before it had deliberated in which direction to turn its arms. It was intended, generally, for New York; but the Count de Frontenac had left to the two commandants the choice of the post which they were to attack, and they deemed it advisable to announce nothing till they had nearly entered the enemy's territory. It was, accordingly, only after four or five days' march that they held a council as to what was to be done: the French inclined to march straight on Orange (Albany), but the Indians rejected the proposal totally, and one of them asked, since when they had grown so bold.

The reply was, that if the French had shown any weakness in the past, they wished to redeem it by taking Orange, or perish in the attempt; but that he erred, in attributing to cowardice the course pursued by the French the last few years; that desire for peace had alone induced them to remain in that inaction, which had given our allies occasion to insult us, only because they failed to penetrate the motive; and that if they had received some checks, it was because they had relied too implicitly on the good faith of the English and the Iroquois; but that he should see that the French had never lacked courage.

Expedition
against
Sche-
nectady.

The Indians, aware of all the difficulties attending an attack on Albany, persisted in their opposition, and the council broke up, without coming to any decision. They continued their march till they reached a spot where two

¹ Nicholas d'Ailleboust, Sieur de Mantet, the fifth son of Charles d'Ailleboust, Sieur des Musseaux. was born in 1663 (Daniel, *Une Page de Notre Histoire*, p. 207), and was killed in Hudson's Bay, in 1709. Charlevoix, *Hist. de la N. F.*, ii., p. 340.

² Repentigny de Montesson. N.Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 466. De la Potherie calls him by the latter name. *Hist. de l'Am. Sept.*, iii., p. 68.

³ The party started, from Montreal, early in February. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 466; Le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 387.