

1690.

withdrawing, he had taken three "cassetètes" to a cabin, to tell the enemy that they were discovered, as well as to defy them.¹ La Plaque was a brave man—a very indifferent Christian, though warmly attached to the French. I have spoken of him elsewhere, and have mentioned that he was a lieutenant in our army.² It was, accordingly, deemed impossible to doubt the sincerity of his report; and the General judged it his duty to neglect nothing to put the Government of Montreal in a state of defense.

His first thought was as to means of retaining his allies near him: he gave them marks of great friendship; regaled them with profusion; then told them all, in a general assembly, that he was charmed with the disposition in which he beheld them, to make neither peace nor truce with the Iroquois; that they could no longer doubt his own resolution to pursue them without relaxation, till he had brought them humbly to ask peace at his hands; that, moreover, he wished them to rest assured that he would not grant the Iroquois peace, except on conditions equally advantageous to the French and their allies, since both were equally his children.

He then added that he believed them too brave, and too sincerely attached to himself, to leave him on the eve of his being attacked by an army of their common enemies; and that the only point to be considered was whether it would be most expedient to advance, and meet this army, or sternly await their coming. Then, without giving them time to answer, he performed the ceremony of putting the hatchet in their hands, saying that he was well assured

¹ De Monseignat, Relation, &c.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 478; De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 96. They explain "cassetètes" as clubs of the shape of a cutlass, on which they make figures, showing who commands the party.

² La Plaque probably followed his uncle to Canada. His father, who remained on the Mohawk, La Plaque

once, in battle, was about to kill, when he recognized him. (Charlevoix, Journal, p. 309.) He, at first, lived among the French; was a fine, well-formed man, and received a lieutenant's commission; but went back to the Indian life. He was so dissolute, that, at the Sault, it was at one time proposed to put him to death. (Ib., 332-3.)