

1690. we were compelled to take up the hatchet again, without any reason being given. We could make nothing of all this fickleness, and were still more surprised at the want of vigor shown in carrying on the war. At last, fearing that the French, hard pushed to defend themselves, would leave us to be crushed, in their inability to give us aid, we felt bound to look to our own security. We accordingly sent and received propositions; but this negotiation came to no head. The first of our ambassadors died among the Senecas;<sup>1</sup> the others returned Michillimakinac, without coming to any definite conclusion. At this juncture, we learned of the return of our old Father; and as soon as he made known his will, we banished all thoughts of making terms with the Iroquois, and have come down to learn more explicitly our Father's intentions."<sup>2</sup>

As soon as he ceased speaking, the Huron orator<sup>3</sup> rose, and said that, for his part, "he had never forsaken the French alliance, or the obedience he owed to his Father, to whom he was resolved to be ever faithful, come what might." Men knew what was to be thought of this protestation; but it was no time to make reproaches, and no answer was made. All the other Indians declared that they shared the opinions expressed by these, and de Frontenac was much indebted to Louis Atherihata for giving occasion to this little explanation. He broke up the conference, lest it should degenerate into a wrangle, and said that, as soon as he had repulsed the enemy from his territory, every one could return home.

The next day the scouts came in, reporting that they had seen nothing, and observed no trails. On this, the army was disbanded till further orders, and the settlers went to hurry in their crops, as to which there was consid-

<sup>1</sup> He is called in French, *La Petite l'Amérique Sept.*, iii., p. 99; *N. Y. Racine. De la Potherie*, iii., 99; *Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 480.  
*N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 480.

<sup>2</sup> This chief, called "The Baron," was a traitor, and joined the English.

<sup>3</sup> *De la Potherie, Histoire de*