

Marquis de Seignelay and transcribed by me from the original :

1690

Guillaume Phibs, General de l'Armée Angloise,
à M. de Frontenac :

La guerre déclarée entre les Couronnes d'Angleterre et de France n'est pas le seul motif de l'Enterprise, que j'ai eu ordre de former contre votre colonie. Les ravages et les cruantes exercés par les François et le Sauvages sans aucun sujet contre les Peuples soumis à leur majestés Britanniques ont obligé leurs dites Majestés d'armer pour se rendre Maitres du Canada, afin de pourvoir à la sûreté des Provinces de leur obéissance. Mais comme je serois bien aise d'épargner le sang Chrétien et de vous fair éviter tous les malheurs de la guerre, moi Guillaume Phibs, Che-

¹ It is inserted here as Charlevoix gives it, inasmuch as it differs somewhat from that given in the account sent to France in the Fleur de Mai. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p., 456, and that given by de Monseignat, (ib., p., 485.) The following is a translation of that given in the text, the part in brackets being in all other copies.

"William Phibs, General of the English Army, to M. de Frontenac :

"The war declared between the crowns of England and France is not the sole motive of the expedition which I have had orders to undertake against your colony. The ravages and cruelties exercised by the French and Indians without any reason, against the nations subject to their Britannic majesties, have forced their said majesties to take up arms to reduce Canada in order to provide for the safety of the colonies subject to them. But as I should be most happy to spare Christian blood and save you from the horrors of war, I, William Phibs, Knight, by these presents, and in the name of their most excellent majesties, William and Mary, king and queen

of England, France, Scotland and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, [and by order of their majesties' government of Massachusetts colony in New England], demand that you surrender into my hands, your forts and castles in their actual condition, with all the ammunition and other supplies whatever. I also demand that you restore all prisoners in your hands, and surrender your property and your persons at my disposal. By so doing you may hope that like a good Christian I will pardon the past, so far as shall be deemed expedient for their majesties' service, and the safety of their subjects. But if you undertake to defend yourselves, know that I am in a position to compel you, resolved, with the help of God in whom I put my trust, to avenge by arms the wrongs you have done us, and subject you to the crown of England. Your positive answer in one hour by your trumpeter with the return of mine."

For the original English, see Mather's Magnalia, Book II., page 49.