

sions of the various proprietors, and since the treaty of Breda from the avarice of the Governors, who, finding intercourse with the English a source of profit, have left them masters of the fisheries and of all the trade. The settlers, on their side, without discipline or restraint, have given no thought either to agriculture or the fisheries, but, sunk in debauchery or bushloping, do nothing but live from day to day."¹

The sole resource of the province lay in our alliance with the Indians of those parts, and especially of the Abénaquis, among whom Christianity had made great progress; but there was constant fear of our losing these allies, the most manageable and, at the same time, the bravest in all Canada. The English were incessantly making them presents and the most extravagant promises to detach them from our interest; and would certainly have succeeded, but for the invincible attachment of these tribes to their religion and their missionaries. In the sequel of this history we shall see, that in order to preserve their faith they often confronted the greatest perils, and that, with the slightest hope of compensation from the French for their losses, they formed on that side a rampart that all the forces of New England have never been able to storm.

Meanwhile, the declaration of Sir Edmund Andros in regard to peace with the Iroquois, and the agreement which it was soon known the cantons had entered into with that governor, not to take any steps in that matter without his intervention, filled the whole colony with consternation. But it often happens that, when no ordinary means appears of avoiding a pressing evil, men make efforts till then deemed beyond their strength. Indignation to see a handful of savages keep a whole great country incessantly in check, inspired a design that would have seemed hardy, even had our situation been as flourishing as it was deplorable. This was the conquest of New York.

1688.
Efforts of the English to divert the Abénaquis from our interest.

The Chevalier de Callieres proceeds to France.

¹ Du Chesneau, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 163; ib., p. 285.