

1691.

Letter of  
Frontenac  
to Mr. de  
Pontchar-  
train.

concerned the Iroquois, informed him that he had not deemed it proper absolutely to reject the proposition of the Mohawks, nor on the other hand had he deemed it expedient to show it too much attention; that he had advised the Chevalier de Callieres to protract the negotiations through the Indians of Sault Saint Louis, and that he had notified the Ottawas, through the Sieur de Courtemanche,<sup>1</sup> that they would do him a pleasure by constantly harassing the Iroquois, against whom he kept himself on guard for fear of surprise.

"I recommended the same thing," he adds, "to the chiefs of the Canibas, when they left me, and I am convinced that if his Majesty adopts the resolution of undertaking any enterprise in the direction of Boston and New York, and seizing this latter place, this conquest will be the security of the country and deprive the Iroquois of all hope of protection. On the other hand, if the king retook Acadia and made himself absolute master of the Great Bank, which could be done by sending three or four frigates every year to cruise from Cape Sable to the northern point of Newfoundland, he would secure to his kingdom a trade of more than twenty millions, and more advantageous than the conquest of the Indies would be."<sup>2</sup>

"I do not know," he says, in another letter, written two months after this, "whether my predecessors have noticed how important it is to secure the mastery of all the fisheries, and the advantage they would give to the commerce to the whole kingdom; nothing can render your ministry more illustrious than to induce the king to undertake this conquest. I believe it more important than that of all the Indies, whose mines are exhausting, while these are inexhaustible."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Augustine Le Gardeur, Sieur de Courtemanche, son of John Le Gardeur de Repentigny. Ferland, ii., p. 232. Daniel, i. p. 162.

<sup>2</sup> Frontenac to Pontchartrain,

May, 1691. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 495-6. Relation, &c., 1690-1. *Id.*, p. 516.

<sup>3</sup> Frontenac to Pontchartrain, Aug. 12, 1691. Canada Doc., II, pt. 1, p. 69