

promising to send deputies forthwith to Montreal to treat with Mr. de Callières. They were believed on their word, and allowed to depart as well as the Cayugas, for whom they answered, and as this was all that they had in view, they took no pains to keep their word. In this conduct of the Iroquois Christians, there was nothing surprising. Indians cannot mistrust those, even, who have most frequently broken their word with them ; but Mr. de Frontenac, ever prejudiced against them, on this occasion gave full sweep to his suspicions, which, nevertheless, had no legitimate basis, and he thus expressed himself in a letter written that very year to the new minister :

1691.

“There has been much outcry against the Indians of Sault, and their conduct has been suspected of insincerity, I have long since perceived a great indulgence that does not please me, any more than certain secret intercourse and connexion which they maintain with the Mohawks, among whom they have many kindred. I have frequently notified the Fathers who direct them, and whom I would not like to accuse of having any hand in it ; but it is certain that, either from a desire of humoring them, or gaining them to Christ by ways of mildness, or from other reasons unknown to me, they are sometimes too indulgent with them. The experience of twelve years’ stay in this country, has convinced me that these missions should not be separated as they are from the French ; that they should always be left with the latter, in order to Frenchify them by Christianizing them, and that, otherwise, they will be more prejudicial than useful to the king’s service.”

Frontenac's
suspicion
on the
matter.

His Majesty’s Council now saw their true policy in regard to the conduct of the missionaries toward the Indians, and were convinced that their zeal was neither weak nor blind. The intercourse kept up by their neophytes with their relatives had no object but to people their village with new proselytes, that is to say, diminish the number of our enemies, and increase that of our allies, as daily happened. It was even admitted that the colony had no better soldiers than those who were in this way detached

False prin-
ciples of
this Gov-
ernor.