

1691. from the cantons, and that the town at the Sault was one of its strongest bulwarks.

If these Christians on some occasions did not do all that was expected of them, if some individuals acted from motives other than those inculcated upon them, no one before or after Frontenac, thought of making the whole town responsible, and much less, those who directed it; and an experience, not of ten years but of more than a century, has taught us that the worst system of governing these people and maintaining them in our interest, is to bring them in contact with the French, whom they would have esteemed more, had they seen them less closely.

In fine, there was no longer any doubt that the best mode of Christianizing them, was to avoid Frenchifying them. In the seven or eight months that the Iroquois of the Sault and the Mountain, spent at Montreal, after the ravage of Lachine, they became unrecognizable, both as regards morals and piety, and there is no one now who does not admit, that if their fervor is no more, as it was so long, the edification and admiration of New France, it is because they have had too much intercourse with us. The example of the Abénaqui nations, much further removed from the French settlements and whose attachment to our interest could go no further, alone sufficed to convince the General of the fallacy of his principle. His complaints and his advice were little regarded at Court, where they were at last persuaded that his project, which they had taken up so warmly thirty years before, was neither useful nor practicable.¹

The Christians of the Sault St Louis and the Mountain, gave them even a proof of their fidelity sufficient to dispel the suspicion of the Count de Frontenac. The Onondaga

¹ Le Clercq's *Etablissement de la Foi*, published in 1691, dedicated to Count de Frontenac, and said by Charlevoix to be in part by him, is entirely in this view of Frenchifying the Indians. See Shea, *Discovery of the Mississippi*, p. 80. Le Clercq adduces as a proof of his position, that in New England and New York the Indians had amalgamated with the whites! The best mode of managing the Indians is still a problem.