

Canton, which had adopted the family of *Sieur le Moynes*, resolved to send him a belt to deplore the death of *Sainte Helene*, his son. With the one appointed for this ceremony they sent two women of the village on the Mountain who had been held as prisoners, but were now set free.¹

1691.

New intri-
gues of
the Iro-
quois.

As no doubt was entertained in the canton, but that such a favor had brought these women over to the interests of the nation, they thought that they could entrust them with a very delicate commission; they handed them two belts, which they were to deliver secretly, one to one of the chiefs of their village, and the other to *Louis Atherihata*, who lived at *Sault St Louis*, and was god-son to the king. By these belts they were invited to return to their country and bring back as many as they could of their relatives and friends, and to give greater efficacy to this invitation the two Iroquois women were to add that there was no other means left them to escape perishing with the French. On what this threat was based, we shall soon see.

The two Indians received the belts, but at once carried them to the Governor of *Montreal*, swearing inviolable fidelity to him. The *Chevalier de Callières* at the same time learned from the two women, who brought the belts, that a large Iroquois party had gone to take post on the *Ottawa River*, at a place called the *Long Rapid*, and that it was their design to cut off all who passed that way to or from *Michillimakinac*, then to spread over the French settlements and prevent their gathering in the crops.

Fidelity of
the Chris-
tian Iro-
quois.

The information was true, but the *Chevalier de Vaudreuil*, who had assembled at *Quebec* a large number of soldiers and volunteers to give chase to these savages, learned, on passing *Three Rivers*, that they had decamped, either because they got information of the preparations on foot against them, or because the incursions of our allies into

¹ Relations, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., *toire de l'Amérique Sept.*, ix., p. ix., p. 518. *De la Potherie*, His- 135.