

1688. The Chevalier de Callieres having laid the plan before the Marquis de Dénonville, went over to France to propose it to the Court, as the sole means of preventing the utter ruin of New France.

He presents
a memoir
the Court.
Its con-
tents.

The memoir on this subject which he presented to the minister¹ stated in substance, that as Sir Edmund Andros, governor of New York, was not a Catholic, the French must not flatter themselves that he would carry out in good faith the orders he had received from the king, his master, to maintain an understanding with us; that we could not in fact doubt but that, following the example of Colonel Dongan, his predecessor, he would by all sorts of means aid the Iroquois, who would never sincerely make peace with the French so long as they could rely on the English: that, this premised, there was no other way to preserve the colony, except to make ourselves masters of New York; and that this conquest was legitimate from the necessity in which the English had placed us of undertaking it, to defend our own territory against a nation whose interests they openly espoused against us. He then comes to the means of carrying out his project.

“Give me,” he says, “1300 soldiers and 300 Canadians, and with them I will descend² the River Sorel to Lake Champlain, under pretext of going to make war on the Iroquois; and when I have arrived in their country, I will proclaim to them that I am willing to live in peace with them, and I aim only at the English. Orange (Albany) has only a stockade, not terrassed, and a small fort with four bastions, with only 150 soldiers and 300 settlers in the town. Manhatte (New York) has 400 inhabitants, divided into eight companies, half cavalry, and half infantry. This capital is not inclosed, but has a fort with four bastions, faced with

¹ The memoir is in full, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 401–404, and the later one, 404–8.

² He should have said Ascend. *Charlevoix*. The author evidently

cited from a summary (Canada Doc., I, iv., p. 150), not from the memoir. The error noted is not in the original. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 405; see, also, p. 429.