

stone, and mounted with cannon. This conquest would make the king master of one of the finest ports in America, which can be entered at all times, and of a very fine country, under a mild climate, and fertile. The treaty of neutrality will be objected; but, in the first place, the English have violated it first; of this we have irrefragable proofs. In the second place, it must be observed, that this colony, being actually all filled with Dutch, from whom the English wrested it, its inhabitants will infallibly obey the Prince of Orange, and will constrain the Governor.¹ Hence they must be anticipated. Still, if it is preferred to defer matters till we are openly at war with the English,² we must prepare for the month of June next."

1688.

This memoir made an impression on the minister, and the king even approved it; but its execution was not confided to the Marquis de Dénonville.

It seems that his majesty had, from the preceding year, thought of recalling Dénonville, having selected him for the post of Governor of the Children of France; for I have had in my hands an order signed by that prince, dated March 8, 1688, by virtue whereof the Chevalier de Callieres, governor of Montreal, was to have command of the forces during the absence of the Governor General.³ Nevertheless, whether the king changed his mind, or had reasons for deferring the execution of this project, there was nothing at the close of the year 1688 to prevent the Chevalier de Callieres from returning to France. It was not till the last day of May, in the ensuing year, that his majesty informed the Marquis de Dénonville that the circumstances of the war just enkindled in Europe had induced him to adopt the resolution of recalling him, in order to give him a position in his army.

1689.

The Marquis de Dénonville recalled to France.

¹ France was already at war with Holland. *Charlevoix*.

² No doubt was entertained of the proximity of this war. *Ib.*

³ The summary of the Minister's

answers represents this as merely a renewal of a commission given the year before. The expression would not therefore necessarily imply that Dénonville was recalled.