

gades had been planned by the Chevalier Nelson, still a prisoner in that capital.<sup>1</sup>

1692.

Such was then, at all points, the condition of New France. The English seemed little to be feared, and asked, apparently, only to be let alone in their settlements and trade. The Iroquois, like those swarms of flies that annoy more than they injure, incessantly disquieted the colony without inflicting any great injury; or at least they alarmed it more for the future than for the present, for it was always a diversion on which the English could depend, when their domestic troubles enabled them to unite all their forces against us.

Actual condition of New France

This situation, far different from that in which the colony had been two years before, was in a great degree the result of the vigilance, activity, and firmness of the Count de Frontenac. The lofty manner in which he had repressed the superiority of the enemy, the efficacious means he had employed to render his allies more docile, and to re-establish the honor of the French arms, made him feared by the one, and respected by the other. In one word his own glory and the felicity of the peoples he governed would have lacked nothing, had he combined the virtues of his predecessor with these great qualities.

Complaint against Mr. de Frontenac.

But at the very time that men rendered him all the justice due to his eminent talents, and his devotion of them to give the colony lustre abroad and security within, they found, nevertheless, much in his conduct to censure. Many complained that through indulgence for the officers, of whose esteem and attachment he was very jealous, he let all the burthen of the war fall on the colonists, ruining them by exactions of service, while the soldiers had all liberty to work for the profit of their captains, who de-

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 544, 552, 555. Phipps rebuilt Pemaquid in pursuance of instructions. Hutchinson, Hist. Mass., ii., p. 68. Maine Hist. Coll., v. p. 282; vi., p. 288.

The two deserters were Arnaud Du Vignon, and Francis Albert. Nelson's letter, Aug. 26, 1692. Hutchinson, History of Massachusetts, i., p. 338.