

It is evident from what this letter¹ says, and still more from what it implies, why Mr. de Frontenac had been persuaded that the Indians should be mingled and confounded with the French, and the reasons why the missionaries opposed it.

1662.

Meanwhile the desertion of the two soldiers who had caused the failure of d'Iberville's Pemkuit expedition gave the Governor-General no little anxiety, especially as several Dutch prisoners at Montreal and Quebec, had escaped at the same time; and all were soon convinced that these evasions were also the result of Nelson's plotting, and that greater liberty than it was expedient to give a prisoner of his importance had been allowed that gentleman. There was, too, every reason to fear that he had transmitted to Boston, by these same deserters, information which the English might use to the prejudice of New France.²

Anxiety of Frontenac, and its ground.

What increased the Count de Frontenac's embarrassment was the failure of all his repeated instances to obtain reinforcements of men and munitions from France; and should the Governor of New England decide to make an effort to take advantage of our weakness, the whole Colony was in great danger of succumbing. It was consequently deemed necessary to employ all means to arrest the deserters before they reached Boston: but all the exertions used, were unavailing. It was even too late to think of it, as there could be little doubt of their having already reached Pemkuit, and consequently that the evil dreaded had been already done.

¹ See the *Histoire de l'Eau de Vie en Canada*, Quebec, 1840. *Lettre de M. Dollier à un de ses amis*. *Canada Doc.*, II., vi., p. 82.

² The deserters were caught. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 561, and executed in presence of Nelson. The letter to Massachusetts is dated Aug. 26, 1692. *Williamson's Maine*, i., p. 637. John Nelson was a nephew of Sir Wm. Temple, and had been in America from about 1670. Having been

sent in 1691 to put Col. Edward Tyng in command of Port Royal, was captured. He was finally sent to France and confined at Angouleme, and in the Bastille, and released only after four years and a half imprisonment, when he was allowed to go to England on parole. He did not return to his family till after an absence of ten or eleven years. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, iv., p. 211, n. *Hutchinson's Hist. Mass.*, i., p. 337.