

1693.

On his side, de Callières put several parties in the field, to endeavor to take prisoners, so as to acquire better information of the designs of the English. La Plaque, who commanded one of these parties, brought to him a Frenchman, taken at sea four years before, who confirmed all that the Mohawks and d'Iberville had said. He added, that the various governors of the English places, which are between Boston and Virginia, had assembled in the month of March of this year, to decide how many men each should furnish, and that they were actually raising soldiers at Albany; that Boston was designated as the general rendezvous on the twentieth of April, that the force was to be ten thousand men, six thousand of whom were to be landed by the fleet.¹

Another point gave the Count de Frontenac still more anxiety. There were great stores of furs at Michillimackinac, and the Indians did not venture to bring them down to Montreal without an escort, which he was not in a position to send them. It was, nevertheless, highly important to obtain these peltries, and still more so, to communicate to the Sieur de Louvigny the intelligence just received, and instruct him how to act in the delicate emergency.

At last the general proposed to the Sieur d'Argenteuil, a reduced lieutenant, and brother of Mantet, to go up to Michillimackinac. That officer cheerfully accepted the dangerous duty, but it was only by great promises that Frontenac could induce eighteen Canadians to accompany him. Mr. de la Valtrie² had orders to escort them beyond all the dangerous points, with twenty Frenchmen and some Christian Iroquois, and it was found necessary to pay both a round sum daily. The instructions sent to de

Frontenac's embarrassment.

¹ De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 179.

² Peter d'Ailleboust, Sieur d'Argenteuil, fourth son of d'Ailleboust de Musseaux, lieutenant in 1691; captain in 1710; Daniel, i., 22; ii., p. 283; served at Michillimackinac. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 569-696; died of apoplexy, in 1711. *Ib.*, p. 855

³ Daniel, (ii., p. 276,) supposes this officer to have been the one who was lieutenant in the Regiment Carignan Salieres, and became captain in 1687, but as he was a Canadian, and merely an ensign, (New York Colonial Documents, ix., p. 562,) he was probably a son of the French officer.