

1693.

Proposi-
tions of
peace from
an Oneida
chief.

Louvigny, directed him to retain within his command only French enough to guard the posts, and to send all the rest down with the convoy. D'Argenteuil made the trip safely; but de la Valtrie, on his way back, was attacked near Montreal Island, by an Iroquois party, who defeated him, killing him, and three other Frenchmen; an Iroquois of the Mountain was taken, all the rest escaped.¹

Amid these hostilities, appeared some gleams of peace. On the 10th of June, Tareha, an Oneida chief, arrived at Montreal, with St. Amour, a resident of that town, who had been four years a prisoner among the Iroquois. He proposed to the Chevalier de Callières, to exchange this man for a nephew of his, and presented him a letter from Father Milet, who had been all this time a prisoner at Oneida. This religious stated, that Tareha was very well disposed, and that credit could be given to all he said.

The Chevalier de Callières at once dispatched him to Quebec, where the Governor General cheerfully consented to exchange his nephew for St. Amour. Emboldened by this welcome, Tareha presented to the Count de Frontenac belts on behalf of the chief cabins or families of Oneida, and especially of his own, in which he said Father Milet had been adopted. Lastly, to convince the General completely of the uprightness of his conduct, he warned him to be on his guard, especially at harvest time.

He nevertheless assured him that the cantons were not far from peace, that the families² which deputed him, had long, earnestly desired it; that they had deferred asking peace only from fear of appearing before their justly incensed Father; that he had at last risked his own safety for the general good, hoping that his frankness would be

¹ Narrative of Military Operations, 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 553. Ensign la Valtrie was killed endeavoring to land. De la Potherie, iii., p. 176. Relation, 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 562. De Belmont gives the date as May 28, 1693. Histoire du Canada, p.

35, Ononari was taken. The place was below the Brulé Rapid. A Dutch prisoner's statement, (Beyard and Lodowick, Jour. of the late Action, p. 31) makes the French loss 107.

² Relation de la guerre, 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 553.

³ See ante ii. p 146, n.