

1693.

even derived this advantage, that on the failure of these advances, those who made them sometimes fell under our suspicions. They had, in fine, found the secret of inspiring the entire nation with the desire of drawing the whole fur trade to them, by showing the cantons the great profit that would redound to themselves. Hence arose all the intrigues of them both, to seduce our allies, some of whom always let themselves be gained, or surprised.

I have nevertheless observed, and this must not be lost sight of, to understand the whole thread of the Iroquois manœuvres, so apparently variant with each other, that these Indians would not calmly have beheld the English sole masters of all Canada. They were not ignorant how much they should have to fear at the hands of the English, had the latter no rivals, and at bottom they aspired only to hold the scale evenly balanced between the two nations, whose mutual jealousy made the Iroquois sought by both and ensured their safety.

The English themselves were very fortunate to have such a barrier to present to us; for they could not ensure the tranquillity of their colonies, powerful as they were, except by keeping us employed on that side, while the Indians in the neighborhood of Acadia, closely allied to us by the bond of religion, incessantly disturbed the repose of New England, and the domestic dissensions of New York exposed that province to the danger of passing under the French domination.

This policy of two nations, too proud to esteem each other, and too restless to remain on a good understanding longer than their interest demanded, had ceased to be a mystery for those who had any share in the affairs of New France. Frontenac knew this better than any other, and if on the one side, it obliged him to be ever on his guard, it reassured him on the other, and induced him to listen to the Iroquois, whenever they sent him deputies, with whom he could treat, without exposing the dignity of his character. Moreover, by this means, he always recovered some