

1694.

What
passed be-
tween
Phibs and
the Indian
allies of the
French.

fort, that otherwise he would regard them all as accomplices in an act of hostility committed against the law of nations, and after an engagement to commit none, adding that he was at Pemkuit in a position to punish this perfidy. These threats perplexed the Indians not a little ; they had given hostages to the English General, their kindred were prisoners at Boston, and these circumstances were more than sufficient to induce them to agree to anything to appease Sir (William) Phibs, who, on his side, would have made a golden bridge to regain them, trusting to betray them in future.

They hesi-
tate.

Moreover, succor had long been promised from France, but came not ; nor could be speedily hoped for ; the French ships that had arrived on the Acadian coast, after advancing as far as St. John's river, having sailed off with a precipitation that admitted a great superiority on the part of the English. All this caused the Indians serious reflection, and they hesitated long as to the course to be adopted. At last the majority decided to send and apologize to the English Governor for the past, and assure him that he should in future have no reason to complain of them.

One
of their
missionar-
ies prevents
their treat-
ing with the
English.

This step would have been certain ruin to themselves and us. Nothing was better calculated to expose their weakness and ours to the English, who would undoubtedly have availed themselves of it, to involve these tribes so that they could never recoil. But Mr. de Thuri, seasonably warned of what was designed, succeeded in assuring the more timid and showing them all, the gulf into which they were plunging, by thus throwing themselves into the arms of a nation whose bad faith they had so often experienced, and whom they had injured too deeply ever to expect to be well treated by them, and who really feared them enough to make it their policy to exterminate them entirely, so soon as they should see them no longer sustained by the French.

He then advised them to employ the time given them for a decision, in gathering the little grain they had planted, and after that to retire to parts where they could be