

1689. the officers and chief settlers, for whom good ransoms might be expected, and send all the rest, men and women, into New England or Pennsylvania; but, as he was not to wait for the late season to return to Quebec, for fear of being stopped on the way by the ice, he had orders to confide the execution of all that remained to be done to the Chevalier de Callieres, whom the king intended for the government of New York, and of the city and fort of Manhattan, under the authority of the Governor-General of New France. Finally, one of the principal fruits of the victory was to be a solid peace with the Iroquois cantons, which, no longer able to hope for assistance from the English, would have no further temptation to give trouble; and to deprive the other English colonies of facilities for setting on foot any enterprise against us by land, it was expressly enjoined on the Count de Frontenac to destroy all the settlements near Manhattan, and put all the rest under contribution.<sup>1</sup>

Failure of  
the enter-  
prise. Why.

A project so well arranged, with its execution confided to officers whose name seemed to guarantee success, had one defect which entailed failure. It depended on the concurrence of two things that can never be certainly counted on, namely, favorable winds and equal diligence in all appointed to make the preparations. The plan proposed by the Governor of Montreal was much more simple than that adopted: it was, too, less expensive: it did not depend on the caprice of wind and wave, but was controlled by one head, the best in Canada. By adding some precautions against the Iroquois, easily adopted, it would infallibly have succeeded; but, in the way that things were arranged, it required a kind of miracle to attain the end in view.

Not but that the measures were well concerted on the part of the king and his minister; but the slightest fault

<sup>1</sup> Instructions for the Invasion of pp. 422-6; Canada Doc., I., iv., p. 198, New York. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., et seq.