

1695.

They renew  
hostilities.

People in general, were far from regarding the Governor-General's patience as favorably as the Court did.

Most of those who saw things closely, deemed it an error to allow the Iroquois to suppose us dupes of their bad faith, and they were more than confirmed in this opinion, when these Indians, after several intrigues to seduce from us their countrymen of Sault St. Louis, and the Mountain, who had been well nigh gained, seeing all their tricks discovered, began to reappear all around our settlements, and perpetrate their usual cruelties and plundering.

The vigilance and activity of the Governor of Montreal foiled, indeed, most of their measures. One of the chiefs of Sault St. Louis, who had secretly entered into negotiation with them, was expelled from the village; the Sieur de la Motte Cadillac, who had succeeded Mr. de Louvigny at Michillimackinac, found means to induce the Indians of his district to attack the common enemy, who were making great exertions to detach them from our side; but all this did not prevent our farmers from being in constant alarm, the Iroquois lying in ambush everywhere, and swooping down to butcher them in sight, and almost under the cannon of their forts.<sup>1</sup>

Insolent  
proposi-  
tions of  
these In-  
dians.

These hostilities had been preceded by very insolent propositions from the Cantons, who at the very moment when they ceased to pretend a desire for peace, resumed their former haughty attitude. They began by asking that the Governor-General should send them, in his turn, deputies to treat at their towns, and as a first preliminary they insisted on a total cessation of hostilities on our part, and that of our allies, either against them, or against the English.<sup>2</sup>

Such insolence in an enemy whom it was not deemed impossible to humiliate; the necessity of doing so, if we would avoid losing all the credit we had regained in the

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 604-8. Cadillac, Aug. 3, 1695.  
De la Potherie, iv., p. 16. La Motte    <sup>2</sup> See N. Y. Col. Doc. ix., p. 500.