

1695.

made with incredible expedition, and the army moved as soon as the convoy was ready.¹

And the
King's.

The next day Mr. de Frontenac received a letter from Mr. de Pontchartrain, in which that minister informed him that the King did not approve his design;² for he, himself, or perhaps some of those who dissuaded him, had written to the court. But he took upon himself to disregard this intimation. "I believed," said Mr. de Champigny, in a letter to de Pontchartrain, dated August 11th, "that he would change his design, as he might easily have done. For this purpose I suggested endless reasons,³ but all in vain, except in that he sent orders to reduce the garrison twenty men." In another letter on the 17th, he adds, "The expedition to Catarocouy has returned; the fort is restored, forty-eight men have remained there, although Mr. de Frontenac assured me that only thirty were to stay. This expense might have been much more usefully employed in striking an important blow at the Iroquois, who were off their guard, and supposed that they had lulled us by their pretended negotiations. Our allies had lost all thought of making terms with them, as they are now doing, we are informed, seeing that we do nothing against them. The Hurons have already sent three canoes there; the Foxes and Mascoutins are just the men to join the cantons against the Sioux; the former even speak of going to settle in their country. In one word, la Motte Cadillac writes, that we are going to lose them all, unless we remedy it, by forming a grand expedition against the Iroquois, and convincing our allies that we really intend to destroy that nation.

Count de Frontenac thought very differently, both as to the designs which he had just carried out, and as to the expedition in which he had not deemed proper to

¹ De la Motte Cadillac, Relation, 1694-5. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 609. De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iv., p. 29. Canada Doc., II., vii., p. 236.

² Pontchartrain to Frontenac, Apl. 16, 1695. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 589.

³ See his reasons, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 591-4.