

engage; and it may be said that setting aside the success of the resolution that he adopted against the opinion of all the enlightened persons in the colony, and which did not entirely meet his expectation, he seemed to reason quite correctly. Equity, from which an historian should never swerve, compels me to adduce his reasons. In the account which he gave the minister of his conduct in the matter, he thus expresses himself :

1695.

“The expedition for Fort Frontenac had started several days before the reception of your letter, and any abandonment of that enterprise, of which the head chiefs of the Ottawas had been eye witnesses, would so have depreciated the French in their minds, by the strong impression they would receive of our weakness, or of our desire to renew negotiations with the enemy, that it would have sufficed to alienate them entirely from us, or at least make them think of contracting peace without our intervention, especially after the joy which they had publicly manifested that by this restoration they might hope to find an assured refuge in any expedition they might undertake against the Iroquois. This operation has been successfully carried out at slight expense, and in a short time. We have not lost a single man, and though I did not propose at present, to do more than repair with palisades the breaches found in the fort, they were able to rebuild them with stone in a week, without its costing the king a sou. . . .

Some wished me to go this year with all our regulars, provincials, and allies, drums beating, and carry Onondaga. I did not deem it expedient; 1st, because I had not sufficient force to do it; 2ndly, not to leave the country stripped, exposed to the incursions of the English, who might pounce upon Montreal, by way of Chambly; 3rdly, from the uselessness of an enterprise which would result merely in burning cabins; for if the Indians had no time to call in the English, they would infallibly retire to the woods with their families. The example of what occurred