

1695. determined, if they refused, to drive them themselves from St. Joseph's river, where there was a large town of those Indians. Fortunately, Mr. de Courtemanche was in the town with some Canadians, when the Iroquois appeared. He joined the Miamis, and fell so suddenly on those savages, who never dreamed of such a thing, and did not know the French to be there, that, after killing and wounding a considerable number, he obliged the rest to take flight in great disorder.

And by Mr.
de Courte-
manche.

Treachery
of a
Huron
chief.

This reverse was keenly felt; but they were soon consoled by the perfidy of a Huron chief, styled by our Canadians, the Baron. He was a dangerous man, and the French, whose natural enemy he was, did not sufficiently distrust him. He had prevented the Michillimackinac Hurons from going to war like the rest, and he had for some time been in correspondence with the Iroquois. He nevertheless concealed his intrigue with a dexterity and secrecy, of which no one scarcely but Indians, and especially the Hurons, are capable, and while he went himself with the deputies of our allies to make loud protestations of eternal attachment before the Governor-General, he had sent to the Senecas, his son, with thirty braves totally devoted to him.

They concluded a treaty with that canton, in which they included the Ottawas, and when the whole intrigue was disclosed, the bond was so well knit, that la Motte Cadillac was unable to break it. That commandant succeeded, nevertheless, in suspending the execution of the treaty, at least on the part of the Ottawas, but the Baron, who had thrown off the mask, no longer used any subterfuge, and the French consoled themselves with the thought that an unmasked enemy is less to be feared than a perfidious ally, especially of the character of this man, who moreover was neither avowed nor followed by all his village.

Another thing annoyed the Sieur de la Motte Cadillac

¹ Relation, &c., 1694-5. N. Y. Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Col. Doc., ix., p. 603, &c., De la Sept., iv., p. 15, &c.,