

and induced him to plan the deputation alluded to. The Indians of his district complained at all times, of the dearness of our goods, which were, in fact, excessively high. Certainly nothing has done us greater prejudice in Canada, especially in those critical times, than disregard to conduct that more than once put us in danger of seeing the tribes, whose commerce was most necessary to us, pass from our alliance to that of our enemies.

1695.

Policy of
the Sieur
de la Motte
Cadillac.

The commandant of Michillimackinac, unable of himself to remedy this evil, of which better than any other man, he could foresee the dangerous consequences, endeavored to strike the Governor-General and Intendant on this essential point, and oblige them to arrest it. He suggested to the deputies, whom he sent to Montreal under another pretext, to present a belt to ask a reduction in the price of goods, and insist on the point, as one which they were determined not to give up. They did so, and even went a little further than la Motte Cadillac intended; they appeared before the Count de Frontenac as men who proposed peace or war; and on offering the belt, did not conceal their intention to pursue their own course, if their demand was not granted.

Such a proposition, made with a menacing air, could not be favorably received, and the belt was haughtily rejected. The General reproached the deputies, as their insolence deserved; but as the mover of the plan had foreseen, he knew how to mingle with his marks of resentment, expressions and manners which disclosed more kindness than anger; so that it was easy for the Indians to understand that the prices of the goods would be made satisfactory. But as in their address they had used expressions to convey the idea that, independent of this consideration, they were not over anxious to continue the war, the General evinced great compassion for their blindness, which prevented their seeing their true interest.

What occurred between the deputies of our allies and Count de Frontenac.

He added that for his part he was bent on carrying on the war; that he would have been delighted to see all his children join him to avenge the blood of so many of their