

1695.

brethren ; but that he really did not need them ; that he could not punish them for their indocility, better than by leaving them free to do as they pleased ; that they should only remember the warning he gave them, that the Iroquois would never have any poicy concerning them, except to destroy them, and that experience should have taught them, that the Iroquois sought to seduce them from his alliance only to be able more easily to effect their design.

Firmness so well seasoned, astonished the deputies, and especially set the Huron chief thinking ; but it did not make him break the silence he had hitherto kept ; he merely said that he had been entrusted with no word from his nation ; that he simply had orders to hear what his father, Ononthio might say, and report to his brethren. The General, however, informed of all his intrigues, told him that dissimulation was useless ; that he knew and did not fear him. Meanwhile the Ottawas and Nipissings, assured de Frontenac that they had no part in anything that man did to displease him, and the latter added that they would not return home ; but that they were resolved to remain by their Father to witness the enterprise he was about to carry out.¹

A Siou
solicits the
General's
protection.

Some time before,² Mr. le Sueur brought to Montreal quite a large convoy from the western end of Lake Superior. While de Frontenac was giving orders to the Indians who had accompanied him, a Siou chief approached him with a very sad air, laid his hands on his knees, and with streaming eyes, begged him to take pity on him ; that all the other nations had their Father, and that he alone was like a forsaken child. He then spread out a beaver skin on which he arranged twenty-two arrows, and taking them one after another, he named for each a village of his nation and asked the general to take them all under his protection. This the Count de Frontenac promised ; but since that time no means have been taken to retain the people in our alliance. Nevertheless considerable

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 631-2

De la Potherie, iv., p. 32. The

² This was July 18. Ib., p. 610 : Sioux chief was Tioskatin.