

1689. He told them that it had been the original intention of the Iroquois to come down by the River des Prairies,<sup>1</sup> which separates Montreal Island from Isle Jesus; to begin their attack by the eastern extremity of the former, to ravage it completely, advancing westward, and not to leave a single Frenchman there; he did not know what had prevented their carrying out this plan, but that they were soon to return, to complete during the winter what they had begun; that then they proposed to make themselves masters of the town in the spring, and were to be joined by a great number of English and Mohegans; that they intended thence to go down to Three Rivers, then descend to Quebec, where they expected to find an English fleet, and they flattered themselves that at the end of that campaign there would be no French left in Canada.

Mr. de  
Dénonville  
and  
Champigny  
decide to  
abandon  
Cataraugus

Mr. de Frontenac then saw how important it would have been for him to have arrived three months earlier; because, even had he not reduced New York, he would at least have prevented what had happened, by putting the Iroquois and English on the defensive. To crown his chagrin, he learned that, in all probability, Fort Cataraugus was evacuated and ruined. In fact, Mr. de Dénonville had sent orders<sup>2</sup> to Mr. de Valrennes, who commanded that post, to abandon it, after blowing up the fortifications and burning the stores that he could not remove, provided no convoy reached him before the month of November. This information was the more surprising to the new governor as Dénonville had given these orders without awaiting the king's directions on the subject, which he had actually solicited himself; and that he had adopted the course after the Iroquois had insolently told them that they wished him to demolish that fort.

As he complained greatly of this step, both de Dénonville and de Champigny represented to him that Fort

<sup>1</sup> Canada Documents, II., v., p. 30. pentigny. La Hontan, Voyages, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 436. i., p. 195; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix.,

<sup>2</sup> By the Sieur St. Pierre de Re- p. 436.