

and religious everywhere were as worthy men, and as edifying, as they were in Canada, but that they were too poorly off, and without means of support; that the distant posts, and especially Catarocouy, were out of reach of timely succor, and that he had always deemed it an error to have established them; that those sent to garrison them were often forced to enter into the interested views of the Indians, constantly involving us in trouble with the Iroquois, and not unfrequently drawing on us the contempt of our allies, who, unable to be relieved in season, did us out of resentment more harm than our very enemies; that it would have been far better not to have interfered in the quarrels of these tribes, and to let them come among us to supply their wants, and not anticipate them, as we continued to do, by carrying our goods to them, at the risk of being plundered on the way, without speaking of the fearful debauchery into which the young men plunge in these journeys; that the English of Boston and New York had promised the Iroquois and their allies the total destruction of the French colony; that Acadia, especially, was constantly on the point of falling into their hands, there not being in that province a single fort capable of resistance, and the houses being more scattered even than on the St. Lawrence; that it would be necessary to fortify Port la Héve, in order to keep ships there in security; that this post was infinitely more advantageous than Port Royal, from which it is not easy to sally forth to defend the coast, and which is too remote from the Islands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland and the Great Bank; that all the coast belonging to France abounded in fish, and that the fishery was far better adapted to settle and enrich the country than beaver and brandy, which till then had almost exclusively engaged the settlers; that the only mode of terminating the war in Canada was to seize Manhattan, and that it could be done with six frigates and 1200 troops to land; that 800 regulars and the provincial militia would easily make themselves masters of Orange,

1689.