

1689. and that no one was more adapted to crown this enterprise with success than the Chevalier de Callieres; but that, after the capture of the capital, it must be burned, and the country ravaged as far as Orange; that by means of this post, which it would be easy to maintain, all intercourse between the Iroquois and English would be broken off, and the former forced to have recourse to us; and we would prevent our allies forming connections with them prejudicial to our safety; in fine, that Fort Orange would enable us to keep in respect the whole New England shore, which was very populous and undefended.<sup>1</sup>

All contained in this memoir was well weighed, and, with few exceptions, in regard to which there was some difference of opinion in the colony, it would have been much to the advantage of New France had more attention been paid to it. But the whole attention of the court was given to more interesting, because nearer, objects. The king and his ministry, without denying the utility of conquering New York, believed all the forces of the kingdom needed elsewhere; and the celerity required by such an expedition was not as easy as they imagined in Canada. Accordingly, the proper season for dispatching ships and troops was again allowed to pass.

The king wishes them to hold themselves on the defensive.

Mr. de Seignelay accordingly informed the Count de Frontenac and Mr. de Champigny that the great exertions which his Majesty was obliged to make, in order to cope with all the European powers united against France, would not permit him to send to America the new reinforcements which they solicited, or think of any enterprise in that quarter; that a vigorous defensive seemed to him at the juncture most consonant to his service and the security of the colony of Canada; that it was especially necessary to collect the settlers into towns easily guarded and defended against the Indians; in fine, that the Count de Frontenac might usefully employ the influence he had ac-

<sup>1</sup> Dénonville to Seignelay. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 440-7; also, 433, 438.