

quired over the minds of the Iroquois, and the occasion of the restoration of their countrymen whom he had taken back from France, to make a solid and honorable peace with them.<sup>1</sup> 1689.

This letter shows, that while they could not understand in Canada how the Court should at all hesitate to make a slight effort to expel the English from New York, the king's council were always astonished at the refusal of the settlers in New France to change the location of their dwellings and adopt in their arrangement a system which was, in their eyes, the easiest thing in the world, and absolutely essential to their preservation. The colonists could see nothing more important to the State than to deliver their colony from the vexatious neighborhood of the English; the Council, judging Canada by the provinces of France, could not be convinced that there was any real obstacle to the changes which they proposed: thus, what interests us most nearly seems in our eyes the only thing necessary, and what we see done before our eyes seems to us practicable everywhere.

Still, it is a fact, that what was required of the Canadian settlers was far less easy to execute than it seemed to the ministry which required it; that the project of acting on the defensive, to which the King's Council wished to confine them, was not more so; and that it cost more to repel the efforts of the English and the Iroquois than it would have cost, once for all, to deprive the former of the power to trouble us, and compelled the latter to remain peacefully in their cantons. This the sequel of our history will show convincingly.

The Count de Frontenac had also returned to America convinced that, next to the conquest of New York, the most advantageous thing to be done for the French colony, whose government he resumed, was to regain the Iroquois; full of confidence in his success, he based his hope chiefly

<sup>1</sup> Louis XIV. to Frontenac and Col. Doc., ix., pp. 452-5; Instructions, Champigny, July 14, 1690. N. Y. June 7, 1689, ib., p. 427.