

this. We have more than once seen the secret inclination of our allies on the north and west to open trade with the English through the medium of the cantons; an inclination founded on nothing, however, but interest, the English furnishing goods at much lower prices than we did. Dénonville, by involving them in the war with the Senecas, had designed chiefly to break off this connection, and render all these nations irreconcilable with the Iroquois, but it was soon perceived that he had not succeeded.

1690.

The Ottawas treat with the Iroquois without the intervention of the French.

The lack of vigor displayed by us on that expedition; the little fruit derived by us from the slight advantage we gained in it; the destruction and evacuation of Fort Niagara, the erection of which they had earnestly solicited; the frequent irruptions of the Iroquois into the colony; and, more than all this, the dishonorable steps taken to secure peace from that nation; the insolence long endured at their hands; and our inaction, notwithstanding their recent hostilities, made the Ottawas resume their former project of effecting a reconciliation with a people from whom they had indeed little to hope but much to fear.

What induced them.

In truth, the wisdom and firmness of the Sieur de la Durantaye,<sup>1</sup> who continued in command at Michillimackinac, and the zeal with which he was supported by the missionaries, had long prevented this resolution taking effect; but they were in constant fear that these Indians would escape us. Our ill-luck would have it that many of them happened to be in Montreal at the time of the sack of La Chine, occurring almost before the very eyes of the Governor General, and while, against their remonstrance, he allowed himself to be lulled by false appearances of peace; for they carried back to their villages a settled

<sup>1</sup> Olivier Morel de la Durantaye was a Breton gentleman, born at Notre Dame du Gaure, Nantes. He came out as a captain in the Carignan regiment, but his many services never brought promotion. He married in 1670, and in his later days, after resigning his commission, became one of the Council at Quebec. Ferland, ii., p. 208, note; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 112, &c. Bouchette Topog. Description, xxii, xxiv.