

whose friend he was, and the following is the portion bearing principally on Joliet's mission : 1690.

“ Here we are, reduced at last to the condition to which I have always thought the hope of peace would bring us. I have never deemed it possible, thinking on this matter, nor do those who know the Onondagas, the most crafty of all the Iroquois. Notwithstanding the difficulty experienced in keeping up the minds of the Indians till the time fixed for the Assembly, when they had lost all hopes from the negotiations for a peace for which they knew the French were begging, and which they could regard only as a proof of our weakness, we had happily succeeded in retaining them in the path of duty till that term ; but, when they went down to Montreal to the Assembly, they were eye-witnesses of the triumph of the Iroquois : they saw that the magnificent promises with which they had been amused resulted in the desolation of our hamlets and the general consternation of the colony. They concluded that they had no other alternative than to make terms with an enemy against whom we were no longer in a position to defend them, and from whose hands they passionately desired to rescue their brethren.

“ We had the happiness of preventing them from carrying out this resolution, and they even yielded to our persuasion to continue the war with us ; but instead of carrying on the war, they resumed negotiations, during which the Iroquois gained great advantages over them and over us. At last, our recent disasters made them conclude unanimously to send ambassadors, first to the Senecas, then to the other cantons, with authority to form a perpetual alliance with the Iroquois nation. The Huron is as deep, or deeper, in this plot than the Ottawa ; but, more wily, he still manœuvres, and has not yet spoken as openly or boldly. When solicited by his ally to join him, he has confined himself to saying that he was too young<sup>1</sup> to inter-

Father de  
Carheil's  
letter to  
Frontenac.

<sup>1</sup> That is to say, too feeble in numbers. *Charlevoix.*