

1690. fere in an affair of that nature, or to oppose it; he let his brothers, who had more judgment than he, act, and they could answer for the consequences. A remnant of doubt as to the result keeps them in this reserve.

“As to the Ottawas, what induced their urgency in sending off their ambassadors was fear lest an order might arrive from you to perform some act of hostility against the Iroquois. This must no longer be thought of; it is too late. It should have been done while they were still at Montreal after the desolation of La Chine; they even desired it; but now that their ambassadors have gone, you must no longer count on them in the war. They loaded the Iroquois prisoners with honors as they sent them back, and we opposed the step, reminding them of the displeasure it would give their Father Ononthio; they answered that they had hitherto placed too much reliance on his protection.

“We had pictured the French to ourselves, they added, as warriors; but experience has taught us that they are less so than the Iroquois. We are no longer astonished at their letting so long a time pass without undertaking any thing; a sense of their own weakness withheld them. After beholding the cowardice with which they allowed themselves to be massacred on the island of Montreal, it is evident to us that we must no longer expect any aid from them, their protection having become not only useless, but even prejudicial, by the complications into which it has most unseasonably involved us. Their weakness and lack of courage were shown in a very evident manner at Tsonnonthouan, where, surprised at the resistance of the enemy, they confined themselves to making war on the grain and bark,<sup>2</sup> and since that time they have not dared to do

<sup>1</sup> I here make the Ottawas speak directly, to avoid a little confusion to be found in this part of Father de Carheil's letter; but, with this exception, I have changed scarcely any thing in that missionary's expres-

sions. *Charlevoix*. He has, however, made alterations that would not be deemed proper now. Compare text with Canada Doc. II., v., 92, &c.

<sup>2</sup> By breaking the bark canoes of the Senecas. *Charlevoix*.