

any thing, except beg peace by all sorts of baseness; they have not even courage to defend themselves when attacked, and, in spite of every experience sufficient to open their eyes, they obstinately cling to hopes of settlement, preferring to suffer the insolence of a haughty enemy rather than return to the battle. Nor has their alliance been less injurious to us in commerce than in war; it has deprived us of trade with the English, far more advantageous to us than traffic with them, and this contrary to all laws of protection, which consist in maintaining freedom of trade; moreover, they throw all the burden of the war on us, while our pretended protectors, with a conduct full of duplicity, seek to shelter themselves by a shameful treaty. In one word, whoever becomes aware of our present state, will take us rather for protectors of the French than for a people protected by them."¹

1690.

There is no doubt that Ottawas used such language only at the instigation of the Hurons, and that it was prompted by the Rat, whom we have seen so active in defeating all de Dénonville's steps for effecting peace with the Iroquois. Information came soon, even, that these very Hurons, who wished to appear in nothing, were the soul of all this intrigue, in which they used the Ottawas, whose natural dulness prevented their modifying any thing or measuring their terms.

Be that as it may, Father de Carheil's letter did not displease the Count de Frontenac. It was not difficult to persuade that general that the evil was great, and he seized with eager readiness any opportunity of blaming what had been done before him. Moreover, he thought he saw in all the untoward accidents the consequences of abandoning Fort Catarocouy. Yet it is true to say that a part of the reproaches of the Ottawas fell somewhat on him, and that his predecessor had thought as well as he, and before him, that to remedy all this evil, to humble the

Its effect on Frontenac.

¹ De Carheil to Frontenac, Sept. 17, 1690, Can. Doc., II., v., pp. 92-104.
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