

1699. King, and in fact, that prince assumed this tone in his letter. In the second place, he informed them that they must in future expect no succor from New York, the Governor-General of New England being forbidden to furnish them any, either directly or indirectly. In fine he made them feel, at the same time, that it would not be difficult for him to reduce them by force, if they refused to make peace on the conditions which his predecessor had offered them.¹

Decision
of the
cantons.

This course produced the anticipated effect: in truth the cantons did not deem it expedient to break off with the English, whose aid they might subsequently need; they preferred to smother the resentment they felt at their pretensions, and contented themselves with declaring, that they were willing enough to be their brothers, but not their subjects. The English on their side also adopted the course of conciliating them. At last the cantons, after tergiversating still for a time, and endeavoring to avenge their losses on those of our allies, to whom they ascribed them, seeing that all this failed, prepared in earnest to come to terms, while they could still do so with advantage and honor.²

They are
defeated by
the
Ottawas.

In consequence of this resolution, two Iroquois³ came on the 21st of March 1700 to meet the Governor-General. They were invested with no powers; but were commissioned to announce a general deputation from the cantons in the month of July. For this delay they adduced very frivolous reasons, at which de Callieres seemed anything but satisfied. Three months after, a large number of Ottawas landed at Montreal, where the General then was, and told him what he already knew, that they had attacked the Iroquois who had come to hunt on their grounds, and killed twenty-eight men and women; that the others having asserted that they thought themselves at liberty to hunt anywhere, as all hostilities were suspended on the part of the French and their allies, the Ottawas had

¹ De la Potherie, iv., p. 123-130.

³ De la Potherie., Hist. de l'Amér.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 492.

Sept., iv., p. 134.