

1700.

the deputies of all the upper cantons. When all had taken their places, Father Bruyas, who was the speaker, began his address. This turned chiefly on three points, which he supported by three belts. By the first, he exhorted the cantons to remember that Ononchio was their father, and that duty and interest alike induced them to be obedient and submissive to him, as became children, whether they were on good terms with the Governor of New York, who was only their brother, or had any difficulty with him. By the second, he expressed his regret at the loss of several chiefs of merit sustained by the Iroquois nation, and he assured it, on behalf of the missionaries, that they had lost none of their former sentiments towards it, notwithstanding the injuries it had inflicted on several of them, "whose sufferings," he added, "we have felt less keenly than the blindness of their persecutors and the invincible obstinacy of the nation in rejecting the light of the gospel." By the third, he declared that the new Ononchio was sincerely inclined to peace, and that he would grant it to them, provided they, on their side, acted as frankly with him, and he explained the conditions under which he wished to treat with them. He was heard with great attention, and, to all appearance, with pleasure. When he concluded, Mr. de Maricourt spoke: he expressed great friendship for the Iroquois, and neglected nothing to impress on them all they had to dread from their Father's resentment, in case they refused the peace which he offered on such reasonable conditions as those just explained; and what they could hope from him and all the French, if they once opened their eyes to their true interests.<sup>1</sup>

Bello-  
mont's  
attempt to  
thwart this  
negotia-  
tion.

The next day, as they were deliberating together on the answer to be made to the ambassadors, a young Englishman and an old Onondaga arrived from Orange, (Albany,) and told them, from the Chevalier Bellomont, to beware of listening to the French, and that he expected them in ten

<sup>1</sup> De la Potherie, iv., p. 149-154. Col. Doc., iv., p. 742; Colden, History of the Indian account, see N. Y. tory of the Five Nations, p. 300.