

1700.

part of the French prisoners, and expected them to restore the rest forthwith as they had agreed to do; and also restore to his allies such of their people as they still detained; that to do this he gave them till the month of August in the following year; that the deputies of all the nations would then meet at Montreal, and prisoners be exchanged on both sides, and all things restored to the same condition as before the war.¹

As the limit he gave them was somewhat long, in order to anticipate any accidents that might happen, he told them that if any difference arose, or evil-minded men gave rise to any hostility, he wished the party injured to apply to him, without undertaking themselves to obtain redress, which he would secure without regard to any one; that if the aggressor refused to submit to the satisfaction he enjoined, he would join the injured parties to compel him and make him regret his disobedience; that it would not depend on him if the Governor-General of New England did not pursue the same course, and act in concert with him, such being the intention of their two royal masters; that their request in regard to Fort Catarocouy did not depend entirely on him; but that he would write to the King, and while awaiting his majesty's reply would send to that post an officer, some goods, and a blacksmith.²

Provisional
treaty
signed on
both sides.

The Iroquois applauded this speech, and avowed that no more reasonable words had ever been addressed to them. The Rat, who was the deputy and chief of the Thionnotatez Hurons, then rose and said: "I have always obeyed my Father, and I cast my tomahawk at his feet: all the upper nations will, I have no doubt, do the same: Iroquois, follow my example." The deputy of the four Ottawa nations spoke in almost the same tone; the Abénaqui deputy said that he had no tomahawk but his Father's, and his Father having buried it, he had none. The Iroquois Christians made the same declaration. There was nevertheless some pique between these last two nations and the

¹ De la Potherie, iv., p. 167. See N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 798, 808. Indian reports of the proceedings. ² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 718.