

1700.

clared neutral, and a stipulation made that neither French nor English should be allowed to make any establishments there. That in spirituals, he considered that these people should be left entirely free to choose either Catholic missionaries or Protestant ministers, and that we might rest assured that they would always prefer the former to the latter.<sup>1</sup>

Bellomont wishes to force the Iroquois to receive ministers as missionaries.

The Chevalier Bellomont was himself convinced of this, although he affected a contrary opinion; but he thought that he could carry by force what he despaired of obtaining otherwise. He nevertheless began by making presents to the cantons to gain them; then he told them that he was going to send ministers among them, and he added that if the Jesuits appeared in their villages he would hang them. This course roused the Iroquois; but what spoiled all, was Bellomont's intimation that he intended to erect forts in the cantons of Mohawk, Oneida and Onondaga, especially at the mouth of the river Chougouen. They broke out then in such a manner that he durst go no further.<sup>2</sup>

The establishment at Mont Louis falls again.

The state of peace seemed to Sieur Riverin very favorable for carrying out his project of Sedentary Fisheries at Mont Louis; but as he was not rich enough to bear alone the expense of such an enterprise, and was apparently abandoned by his company, he took in as partners, unfortunately, two Parisians. He then went to Quebec, and having got together some families took them to Mont Louis, in June 1700, and began his fisheries, while awaiting the ship, which his partners had agreed to send him, and which was to bring him fishermen and flour.

The ship arrived indeed on the 8th of July; but too late by six weeks to profit by the fishing season. Nor was this the greatest trouble. His partners had in view only the fur trade, their ideas having been changed by false statements given them. Then those, whom they had sent to

<sup>1</sup> Callières to Pontchartrain, Oct. 16, 1700. New York Col. Doc., p. 711.

<sup>2</sup> Romer was sent to lay out a fort at Onondaga. N. Y. Col. Doc., iv, p. 440, 641, 681.