

they should especially remember their promise made to their Father to restore to him all the prisoners; that a great event which had recently happened in Europe might early renew the war between the French and English; but that it was not the interest of the cantons to take any part in the contest.<sup>1</sup>

1701.

After this address they adjourned; three days after, the council met again to reply to it, and the English were invited. Teganissorens first handed a wampum belt to Abraham to exhort him not to traverse the arrangement he was about to conclude with the French. He even added some reproaches against the English, to whom he imputed all the past misfortunes. He then laid another belt at the feet of Father Bruyas, saying that he gave liberty to all the prisoners still in his cantons. "I open all the doors," he proceeded; "I stop no one; I wish to live on good terms with my Father Ononthio, and with my brother Corlar; I hold each by the hand, determined never to part with either. Five delegates are about to set out for Montreal, two others will go to Albany; I myself will remain on my mat, to show all the world that I take no side, and wish to preserve a strict neutrality."

Reply of  
those  
Indians.

Father Bruyas and Mr. de Maricourt, who had sent Joncaire to Seneca and la Chauvignerie to Oneida, thought such a declaration ground for all hope, and their confidence was heightened by the arrival of the Sieur de Villedonné, lieutenant in the infantry, with the news that Father Anjelran was at Montreal, having pushed on ahead to notify the Governor-General that delegates from all the nations would forthwith reach him; but la Chauvignerie returning from Oneida, reported that he found that canton quite ill disposed, and that he had been unable to recover a single prisoner.

Several ill-  
disposed.

<sup>1</sup> The event alluded to was the death of Charles, King of Spain, who left his crown to Philip, grandson of Louis XIV. The Emperor of Germany, however, laid claim to it, and all Europe was involved in the war of the Spanish Succession.

The French in Canada earnestly endeavored to obtain neutrality between the European colonies in America, and proposed it at this time, N. Y. MSS. Eng. xlv., p. 119, or at least an agreement not to use Indians in case of war.