

Callieres, had returned to France and given up all thoughts of America.

1703.

The Marquis de Vaudreuil was accordingly granted to the prayers of all those whom he was to govern; it seems even that this unanimity of all orders in the colony in his favor had gratified the King, who had given him marks of his appreciation on several occasions since the surprise of Valenciennes by the Mousquetaires, to which body Vaudreuil belonged. In fine, the intelligence of his promotion was received with most sincere applause, his conduct during the vacancy having already confirmed the general impression, that no one was better adapted for the post to which his Majesty's selection had just raised him.¹

As he saw from the outset the importance of making sure of the Iroquois, he showed great friendship to some Senecas who came to wait upon him soon after Callieres' death. He even sent the Sieur de Joncaire to accompany them home, and that officer negotiated so successfully in that canton, that he brought back with him one of the head chiefs. This Indian first thanked the Governor-General for his goodness in promising to protect them against all their avowed enemies; he then expressed great regret that the Onondagas had not come to congratulate him, and seemed to entertain evil designs. Then he said: "We have never communicated to any one what I am going to tell you. Hitherto we have always claimed to be sole masters of our territory, and hence we at first decided to be mere spectators of what might occur between you and the English; but here is a belt which I present to you under ground, to declare to you that we give you the absolute domain of our country. Hence, Father, if any mischance befall us, in which we need aid, consider us as your children and put us in a condition to uphold the course we this day adopt. As regards the missionaries, you may be

Seneca
delegation.

¹ His commission dates August 1, 1703. Edits et Ordonnances, iii., p. 58; but he was not installed as Governor-General till 1705, when it was done with great pomp. Juchereau, Histoire de l'Hôtel Dieu, p. 420-1. His mother-in-law, Madame de Marçon, had been very active in procuring his appointment. See, too, Daniel, Nos Gloires, i., p. 74-81.