

1696. had been detached with several others of the same village to capture prisoners, informed them of the real design of the French.

Stratagem of the Chevalier de Callieres, and its result.

A report which this traitor then proceeded to bear to his own canton, the Senecas, produced a contrary effect to what he intended; the Chevalier de Callieres, who knew the Indians well enough to expect that some would desert, had taken the precaution, on starting from Catarocouy, to say quite loud, that it was no wonder the Ottawas did not arrive, as the Count de Frontenac had requested them to attack the Seneca canton, while he marched on Onondaga: nor did the deserter fail to carry this news to his countrymen, and it induced all the warriors of that canton to remain and defend it.¹

The Onondagas burn their great village.

That same evening a bright light was seen in the direction of the great Onondaga village, and it was inferred that the Indians had set it on fire, as they had in reality. The next night another Seneca deserted. These two men had been taken in war the preceding year. As their lives were spared, they displayed great affection for the French, but prudence dictated that too much reliance must not be placed on their fidelity. Many trails had already been discovered, of men going to Cayuga and Oneida, and coming from those cantons. There was no doubt but that the Onondagas had sent thither all the useless mouths in their canton, and obtained thence in their stead all able to bear arms.²

On the 3rd the army proceeded to encamp half a league from the landing, near the Salt Springs elsewhere spoken of.³ The next day, Mr. de Subercase drew them up in two lines, and made the necessary details to carry the artillery. Mr. de Callieres commanded the left of the line;

¹ Relation etc., 1695-6, p. 652. De la Potherie, iii., p. 275-7. The Relation des Affaires du Canada, 1696, p. 8, says the deserter reported the army as 6000, who were to attack Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, simultaneously, and that on this, the Cayugas and Senecas returned

home, and the Onondagas, after destroying the fort, retired to a town 25 leagues southward.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 652. See Fletcher to Lords of Trade, Aug. 22, 1696. *Ib.*, iv., p. 172

³ Ante, vol. ii., pp. 189, 257.