

1704.

unseasonably undertaken, should not always on that account be neglected or abandoned.¹

Meanwhile, the Senecas seeming as well disposed as we have seen, de Vaudreuil informed them that he should like to have them attend the meeting at Albany to prevent any resolution being adopted against French interests. He had also made sure of the Onondagas; Mr. de Maricourt having recently died, the Baron de Longueuil, his elder brother, had been sent to that canton, and was successful in his negotiation. He was still there with Joncaire and Father le Vaillant when the Governor of Albany arrived. The Council was held, and Schuiller could not prevent our three Frenchmen attending, and they manœuvred so well, that the meeting broke up without coming to any conclusion.²

New efforts
of the
Governor of
Albany to
draw the
Iroquois
Christians
to New
York.

The Governor of Albany was not disheartened, and on his return, meeting in the Mohawk canton some Iroquois from Sault St. Louis, he induced them by presents to follow him to Corlar (Schenectady). There he reproached them with being the sole authors of the war; he then offered them lands if they would settle within his jurisdiction, and gave them a belt for their village, and two others for the Mountain and Sault au Recollet villages, by which he exhorted them at least to remain tranquil, and open a fixed trade with him.³

These belts were not only taken by the Indians, but were accepted by the three villages. Mr. de Ramezay, soon informed of this, saw that there was not a moment to lose to prevent the results of this negotiation. Fortunately the chiefs and sachems had taken no part in it, so that he had no difficulty in getting the belts sent back without an answer. He even induced the three villages to raise war-parties against the English.³

Shortly before, some Abénaquis having allowed themselves to be surprised by the English, who killed several,

¹ Peter Schuyler, Dirck Wessels and John Schuyler were at Onon-

² New York Col. Doc., ix., p. 763.

daga before June. N. Y. MS. I., p. 26. 764.

³ New York Col. Doc., iv., 1163, ix.,