

applied to Mr. de Vaudreuil for aid, and that General sent to them the "Sieur de Montigny with four or five Canadians. They only needed reassuring, and Montigny alone sufficed for this. He had soon assembled fifty warriors of that nation, and putting himself at their head, he went out to meet the English, plundered and burned a fort to which a number had retreated, and took many prisoners.¹

Other Abénaquis finding themselves too much exposed to the incursions of the Bostonians, and in danger of starving, being out of reach of provisions from the French settlements, and unable to obtain any more from the English, de Vaudreuil seized the opportunity to execute a design which he had formed immediately after the Chevalier de Callieres' death. He proposed to these Indians to come and reside in the colony, and they consented. They were placed on the River Becancourt, where they still are.² The Governor-General's design in forming this settlement, was to oppose a barrier to the Iroquois in case those Indians were induced by the English to renew the war, or even prevent their taking that step, and the sequel shows that he judged rightly.³

In reality the Cantons, especially the Senecas, did not wish to infringe the neutrality they had vowed, as they

1704.

Sieur de Montigny's expedition against the English.

Several Abénaquis settle at Becancourt

¹ He took 23. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 762. The place was perhaps Lancaster, where quite an action took place July 31, 1704. Hutchinson's Massachusetts, ii., p. 135.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 762. Hutchinson's Massachusetts, ii., p. 131. The Baron de Portneuf, Seigneur of Becancourt, ceded a tract of land for the Abénaqui village, so long as they occupied it, to the Indians who had come from the mission of Damisokantik, and others who came to Canada at the request of the authorities and of Father Sebastian Rale, their missionary. See Act, April 30, 1708, in Maurault, Histoire des Abénakis, pp. 285-288. Maurault makes Damisokantik identical with what Charlevoix else-

where calls Nansokantik, Megantic Lake, in the upper waters of the Chaudière. But Rale mentions an Abénaki village near the Kennebec, by the name of Anmesskkanti, which Trumbull supposes to be Meesucontee, at Farmington Falls, on Sandy River, Maine. Composition of Indian Geographical Names, p. 25; and this place answers all requirements, being in Rale's mission district, near the English, and nearer to the French than Norridgewock. On reaching Becancourt River they settled first on Montesson Island, and after some changes, adopted their present site in 1735. Maurault, p. 292.

³ New York Colonial Doc., ix., p. 765.