

1705.

devoting themselves exclusively to the fur trade, and were turning seriously to the cultivation of their lands, and especially to planting flax and hemp; that his Majesty hoped that they would soon succeed in building vessels cheaper than in France, and in establishing good fishing stations; that too much could not be done to incite them to it, or facilitate the means of their doing so; but that it was not expedient for the Kingdom that manufactures should be carried on in America; as this could not be permitted without some prejudice to those of France; that nevertheless he did not absolutely forbid the establishment of some for the relief of the poor. In fact advantage was taken of this permission to make linens and druggets, from which the colony derived great benefit.¹

The
Ottawas
make
reparation
to the
Iroquois.

Meanwhile the Ottawas showed no haste in fulfilling the conditions on which they had obtained pardon from the Marquis de Vaudreuil. On the other hand, the missionaries at Michilimackinac, after burning their house, had come down to Quebec, the licentiousness of the bushlopers, more unbridled than ever, depriving them of all hope of doing any good in that place, where, since the departure of the Hurons for Detroit, they had not a single Christian left, so that the Ottawas, abandoned to themselves, followed only their caprice.²

The embarrassment into which this incident threw the Governor-General, was greatly increased by the information given him that the Iroquois, incensed at the delay in the reparation promised by the Ottawas, seriously thought of declaring war against them. It was of the greatest consequence to prevent this, and de Vaudreuil at once dispatched Joncaire to renew to the Cantons his solemn promise of a prompt and entire satisfaction. He then persuaded Father Marest to return to his mission at

¹ The Hospital Brothers at Montreal were active in this matter. Canada Doc., II. x., p. 410; and Madame de Repentigny wove nettles, white-wood bark &c. Ferland, ii., p. 355.

² La Motte Cadillac used every endeavor to draw the Indians from this post to Detroit, with a view of Frenchifying them. Letter to Pontchartrain, Aug. 31, 1703, in Sheldon's Michigan, pp. 104, 112, 198.