

with his family, and a large convoy of men and munitions, so that the General was unable to concert with him the most expedient course in such a delicate juncture. Naught could be wiser than that adopted. He began by assuring the Iroquois that he would not allow them to make war on the Ottawas without his consent, and on this point he spoke so firmly that he stopped them. Besides the inexpediency of allowing the Iroquois to intervene in a quarrel which would thus become more difficult to appease, de Vaudreuil was still pleased to show the English, that with all the influence they supposed they possessed over the Iroquois, his was greater still.

1705.

His course.

He then resolved to temporize till he heard what la Motte Cadillac had done at Detroit.¹ In fine he did not wish to drive the Ottawas to extremities, as their ruin or despair could not but injure the fur trade seriously. He was more than confirmed in this idea by the arrival of an Ottawa chief, come to apologize for what had occurred at Detroit. He informed the Governor that all the Ottawas of that post had retired to Michilimackinac, where they had been very well received by their brethren, and he added that if war was declared against them, the French would have more, than his tribe to cope with.

De Vaudreuil, however, deeming it expedient not to show too great readiness to receive his excuses, sent orders to all the French at Michilimackinac to come down into the colony. He even hoped that this mark of displeasure would breed division among these Indians, and compel the innocent to surrender the guilty. He imparted his resolution to la Motte Cadillac, advising him merely to keep on his guard and undertake nothing till circumstances gave some light as to their proper course, especially as nothing could be decided till they knew the result of the embassy of Joncaire, just sent to the Iroquois.

The warning reached Detroit too late. There the Commandant had nearly ruined everything by over-presuming on the influence he had acquired over the Indians. On

¹ La Motte Cadillac wrote Aug. 27, 1706. See letter in Sheldon, p. 218.