

1707. them bluntly, that they had nothing to expect from him till they brought him le Pesant, and he added that if he had not controlled the Hurons and Miamis, those tribes would have punished him already.

De la Motte
Cadillac's
conduct
dis-
approved.

This firmness disconcerted them, if indeed it was not all a mere device. They saw, or pretended to see, that there was no alternative but obedience, and in reply to the Commandant they said that they were going for the criminal, and would bring or tomahawk him. They in fact started for Michilimackinac, accompanied by de St. Pierre. Their prompt obedience led to the inference that la Motte Cadillac had given them to understand that he would act indulgently. The fact is that le Pesant soon arrived at Detroit, was at first put in irons; then, when all the chiefs of the tribe threw themselves at the Commandant's feet to ask the prisoner's pardon, it was instantly granted. This conduct has been much canvassed, many thenceforth being convinced that impunity for such an act would lead to more disastrous results than were to be feared from a greater severity. This was the opinion of those best versed in Indian affairs, and the future only justified their conjecture.¹

It was not de Vaudreuil's intention to pardon le Pesant but to hand him over to the judgment of his tribe, in which he would at least have been left without influence, and which would perhaps have been forced to sacrifice him to his enemies. Nothing could be wiser, and this course had none of the objections feared; but the Governor-General had reasons for leaving de la Motte Cadillac at full liberty to act as he deemed best at Detroit. The greatest evil was, that this Commandant had promised the Miamis the head of the Ottawa chief, and we shall see how far they carried their resentment at his breach of promise.²

During all these movements the Iroquois acted quite well, and New York on their account enjoyed a kind of neutrality, to which it adhered as long as the Dutch party

¹ Sheldon's Michigan, pp. 251-276. chartrain, Nov. 14, 1708. Canada

² Vaudreuil and Raudot to Pont- Doc., II., xi., p. 23.