

1696.

Deliberation as to the course to be adopted.

On this information a council of war was held, and they discussed what was yet to be done to put the finishing stroke to an expedition already so well begun. The Count de Frontenac was at first of opinion that they should proceed to treat the Cayuga canton as they had just treated Onondaga and Oneida, and this proposal was not only generally applauded, but it was added that after ravaging those three cantons, forts should be built there to prevent the Indians from returning.

This was also approved. The Chevalier de Callieres offered to remain in the country during the winter to carry out the project, and his offer was at first accepted. Mr. de Maricourt and some other officers, chiefly Canadians, as being more accustomed than the others to forest life and Indian pursuit, were appointed to remain under his orders; but great surprise was felt when the General that very evening announced that he had changed his mind and that preparations should be made for marching back to Montreal.

The Count de Frontenac, against the advice of all, leaves his expedition unfinished.

In vain did the Chevalier de Callieres represent to him that he should at least, before leaving the country, reduce the Cayugas the haughtiest of all the Iroquois, and the easiest to subdue, that this would only require them to descend a fine river that led to that canton, and that this expedition would require only a part of his army; he could obtain nothing, and we are assured that the Count de Frontenac let slip the expression that the Governor of Montreal was jealous of his glory, and that it was only to dim it that he wished to involve him in a new enterprise, of doubtful success. Be this as it may, the discontent became almost general, and those who concealed it least were the Canadians, and the Iroquois of Sault St. Louis.

Suspicious against him.

But in spite of the repeated instances of these last whom Frontenac disliked, he ordered the homeward march, saying quite loud: "They wish to tarnish my glory, and it is time that I take a little rest." The tradition which nine years after I found quite general in Canada, is that some

<sup>1</sup> Relation des Affaires du Canada, 1696, p. 10.