

The inevitable result of yielding to the Indians after threatening them, followed. The Miamis did not observe the conditions of the treaty in which they detected weakness, and the French commandant was at last forced to march against them at the head of four hundred men, French and Indians. The Miamis made a brave defence, but their intrenchments were carried, and having no resource but the clemency of the conqueror, they submitted to all that was required of them, and to prevent their committing in future any new freak that would require driving them to the wall, it was deemed expedient to send back their missionary.¹

The Iroquois cantons had all along observed the neutrality strictly; to this the missionaries doubtless contributed greatly by their vigilance and kind manner; but they were greatly aided by the good conduct of the Sieur Joncaire, and the harmony maintained with them by that officer.² Joncaire, adopted by the Senecas and highly esteemed by the Onondagas, kept moving constantly from one canton to the other; he informed the missionaries of everything, and took no step except in concert with them, and thus succeeded in baffling all the plans and defeating all the intrigues of the English. He charmed the Iroquois by his frankness; he spoke their language as well as they, a thing that gratified the Indians wonderfully; he won their good will by his liberality; their esteem by his intrepidity, and where prompt action was needed, could

1707.

Useful
services of
Joncaire
among the
Iroquois.

¹ D'Aigremont, whose instructions are in N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 805-8, says: (Sheldon's Michigan, p. 285-6) that La Motte failed to carry the Miami entrenchment though defended by only 60 men, and drew back; that after seven Frenchmen and two Indians were wounded, and four Indians killed, they came to a parley, and the Miamis promising to give up murderers in six weeks or come and settle at Detroit, La Motte retired with three chiefs as hostages and presents of furs. See Vaudreuil

and Raudot, Nov. 14, 1708. Canada Doc., II. xi., pp. 23-79. These Detroit troubles enabled the English to revive their influence in the West through Montour and others. N. Y. Col. Doc., v., p. 65, and ix., p. 830. See Negotiations of the Ottawas at Onondaga. Calendar of N. Y. MSS., English, p. 362, as well as of Miamis. Father d'Heu, May 24, 1708. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 815.

² For Clerambault d'Aigremont's estimate of Joncaire, see N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 823