

1708. always decide on his course unhesitatingly, essential qualities in the position he occupied.

The Iroquois Christians are seduced by the Governor of Albany.

But while they succeeded so well in preventing the heathen Iroquois from siding with the English against us, the Governor of Albany had almost equal success in negotiating with the Christian Iroquois settled in the colony. For some time a manifest decline of piety had been observed in these neophytes, attributable solely to intoxication, of which it was almost impossible to cure them. In spite of the repeated prohibitions of the King, and the exertions of the Governor of Montreal, the liquor trade was again vigorous, and on the occasion of raising a large war-party, formed early in the following spring to operate towards Boston, it was perceived that the former dependence could not be placed on the Iroquois of Sault St. Louis and the Mountain.<sup>1</sup>

A great war-party projected.

This expedition had been decided upon in a great council held at Montreal with the chiefs of all the Christian Indians settled in the colony, and other Abénaquis were to join with a hundred picked Canadians, besides a great number of volunteers, chiefly officers in our troops, making in all four hundred men. Messieurs de St. Ours des Chaillons and Hertel de Rouville were to command the French, and the Sieur Boucher de la Perrière was to lead the Indians. As it was important to keep the project secret till the moment when the warriors should start,<sup>2</sup> and to march rapidly, it was arranged that the two first named commandants should proceed by the St. Francis River with the Algonquins, the Abénaquis of Bekancourt, and the Hurons of Lorette, and that la Perrière with the Iroquois should go by Lake Champlain; that all should meet at Lake Nikisipique,<sup>3</sup> where the Indians bordering on Acadia were to be at the appointed time.

<sup>1</sup> See Schuyler's letter, post. Charlevoix visited the Sault St. Louis mission in 1708; it was then opposite the Rapid. For the deleterious influence of liquor at that time,

see Charlevoix, Journal, iii., p. 141.

<sup>2</sup> In N. Y. Col. Doc., v., p. 86, is the statement of a deserter from a party against Deerfield.

<sup>3</sup> A Mohawk in N. Y. C. Doc., v.,