

selves thus discovered, and still more at the contempt with which the Marquis de Vaudreuil affected to treat them, on their deserting the Sieur de la Perrière; for he had merely remarked, that since they were so fond of peace, they might henceforward rest peacefully on their mats, as the French could very well do without them. This stung them to the quick, and they resented it in a way to gratify all the General's hopes. They raised several war-parties, and were joined by the Abénaquis of Bekancourt, whose fidelity, in spite of Schuiler's assertions, had not been suspected, and who had just given such strong proofs of their attachment to our interest. The latter, flushed by recent success; the former, eager to atone for their fault, spread desolation through various quarters of New England.

1708.

They atone
for their
fault.

On his side, the Governor-General complained warmly to the Governor of Albany that while he left his district and all New York undisturbed, out of consideration for the Dutch and for him personally, and this with the view of keeping the Iroquois to a neutrality no less advantageous to the English colonies than to New York; he not only kept constantly stimulating the cantons to take up arms, but was building a fort in the Mohawk canton, and laboring to debauch from him the Indians domiciliated in the centre of the French colony. On the first point Schuiler made no reply; his answer to the second was this:

Vaudreuil
and the
Governor
of Albany.

“As for the belt which I sent with a view to prevent the Indians from taking part in this war, carried on against the government of Boston, I must avow the fact, but I was impelled to it by Christian charity. I could not help believing it my duty to God and my neighbor to prevent, if possible, these barbarous and pagan cruelties, which have been but too often perpetrated on the unhappy people of that province. You will excuse me, sir, if I tell you that I sicken to think that a war between Christian princes, bound to the strictest laws of honor and generosity, of which their noble ancestors have given so many illustrious examples, has degenerated to a savage and unbridled barbarism. I cannot conceive the possibility of putting an