

1696.

individuals, who did not wish to see the war ended so soon, had shown the Governor General, as he left the council, that if the Iroquois nation were once destroyed, or entirely incapacitated from giving us any uneasiness, the king would infallibly make a considerable reduction in the troops he maintained in the colony.

This was touching his weak spot; he loved to rule, he had the nomination to most of the military commands, which rendered all the good families absolutely dependant on him, and won him an authority, which it would mortify him deeply to see curtailed. Moreover he had the sense to perceive that the Court, where from time to time memorials against his conduct were received, would give him less scope, when they judged him less necessary. He accordingly believed, as his enemies pretend, that it was necessary to preserve an enemy whom he needed, in order to maintain himself in the elevated position which he occupied.

But to deem a man of that rank capable of thus sacrificing the peace of a colony to his ambition; of thus dishonoring the laurels he had come so far to win, and with such toil at the age of seventy-four, and tarnishing all the glory he had acquired since his return to Canada, requires, it would seem, evidence that the strongest conjectures cannot give. Nor is the fact that no motive can be conceived for his conduct enough to justify us in ascribing to him a dishonorable one. Moreover, if he had a great many partisans in New France, whom his personal merit had prepossessed in his favor, or who were bound to him by interest and gratitude, there were still more who deemed that they had good cause of complaint against him. And all know that resentment leaves far more durable impressions than gratitude and esteem, which are often buried in the grave with their object.¹

The Count de Frontenac let the Indians and all who

¹ Although Charlevoix thus condemns Frontenac, we find no documents transmitted on the occasion, and Count de Pontchartrain, April 28, 1697, wrote stating that the king had expressed himself entirely satisfied with his expedition.