

cantons, which had taken up arms. In fine, they believed the Governor so little incensed against them that they had the hardihood to ask him to pardon the Dutch, and especially Mr. Schuiler for breaking the truce, averring that he had not been free to keep it longer.¹

1710.

The
Iroquois
send
deputies to
de
Vaudreuil.

The fact was so: moreover the position of colonial affairs forbid his rejecting the excuses of such a suppliant, at the risk of making him an irreconcilable enemy. This the Iroquois saw full well, and they believed themselves entitled to some gratitude for taking the step they did. Moreover, this nation had always shown that it disapproved the war between the French and English, and in a second audience given by the General to the deputies, the spokesman, after expressing his regret to see two nations whom he esteemed, he said, almost constantly engaged in mutual destruction, he added with a frankness now scarcely known except among savages: "Are you then both drunk? or is it I who have lost my senses?"

He also proposed an exchange of prisoners between the Dutch and French, and it was accepted and executed in good faith on both sides.² De Vaudreuil then told the deputies that his allies only awaited his permission to declare war on them, and that if they wished to avoid that annoyance, they must remain quiet; that on the first movement he noticed on their part, he would leave all his children free to dash in upon them.

Scarcely had the Onondagas gone, when some Mohawks were seen arriving, who spoke nearly in the same tone, and protested that they would never lift the hatchet against the French, but as most of them had settled in the neighborhood of Orange (Albany), whither Schuiler had succeeded in drawing them, de Vaudreuil felt that it would not be

¹ Vaudreuil to Pontchartrain, May 1, 1710. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 842.

² Lieut. Staats was exchanged for Rev. Peter de Mareuil, the last Jesuit missionary at Onondaga. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 836; his house

and chapel had been burnt at Schuiler's instigation, and he himself taken really as a prisoner to Albany. Four others were also exchanged. *Ib.* pp. 842, 847. He must have reached Montreal in April 1711. *Ib.* p. 855.