

then in the colony. The Wasp was to carry this reinforcement straight to Placentia, and there to await Mr. d'Iberville, who was to sail thither only after he had wrested Fort Pemkuit from the English, according to the plan spoken of in the previous book.¹

1696.

The Court had this enterprise greatly at heart; a fortified place amid the Abénaqui nations, giving ground to fear that these Indians, so necessary to New France, would be overwhelmed by all the forces of New England, as would have happened indubitably, had the English had more able governors, or forever detached them from our alliance by our failure to aid them; but our enemies, to effect this, adopted the very means calculated to repulse them.

A few months before, some Abénaquis had again allowed themselves to be drawn to Pemkuit by the hopes the English held out of releasing prisoners of their nation. They were quite well received at first, but when they deemed themselves most secure, two were killed with pistols. An attempt was made to seize the rest, but, surprised as they were, they made a long defence with their wonted valor. Two were killed, but at the cost of two English lives. The other Indians, it seems, whose number I could not ascertain, were made prisoners; for I find that Taxous, one of these last, killed two of his guards on the way and escaped, as some others did subsequently.²

New
treachery
of the En-
glish to-
wards the
Abenaquis.

It is inconceivable how the English failed to see that a different course would in time have succeeded in gaining a naturally mild and easy race; but nations, like individuals, never lay aside their peculiar character, and are almost always victims of their predominant fault. For the same reason these frequent acts of treachery did not correct the Abénaquis of a confidence of which they had

¹ Relation, &c., 1695-6, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 657. Ante. Vol. iv., p. 275. of treachery was committed by Chubb (Feb., 1696). Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts, ii., p. 90.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 642, citing Thury's letter of May 21. This act Williamson, History of Maine, i., p. 642.