

1711. of Placentia, that if he would send Mr. l'Hermite to take command, he would guarantee success; but de Costebelle needed all his officers, and for want of leaders, the settlers and Indians retired. It was soon after ascertained that the garrison of Port Royal, which had been five hundred men, was then reduced to one hundred and fifty, some having been carried off by a contagious disease, and many more having deserted.¹

Generosity
of the
people of
Quebec.

The next year the rumor again spread that the English were preparing to take the sea with a new fleet, to besiege Quebec, and the Governor-General obtained from the coffers of the merchants of that city, a sum of fifty thousand crowns to add new fortifications. At the same time, he received several intimations that the English were reconciled to the Iroquois, and hoped to induce that restless nation to give us trouble in the north and west of Canada, in order to open a path for them to establish their power on the ruins of ours. This intelligence, though it did not prove true, was not utterly unfounded.

De
Vaudreuil
treats with
the
Iroquois.

It is even very probable that if Joncaire had not secured the Senecas, and the Baron de Longueuil² negotiated with his usual tact with the Onondagas, we might have soon found ourselves in difficulties almost inextricable. Deputies came at last from the cantons to make new excuses for the past, and loud protestations of inviolable fidelity in keeping their promises in future. Faith in their sincerity had to be displayed. Nevertheless, de Vaudreuil at first spoke to them firmly, he then made them considerable presents and dismissed them, perhaps better disposed to us than when they had come.

But they had shortly before raised up against us a new

¹ Gaulin, Lettre, Sept. 5, 1711. Canada Doc., III. ii., pp. 893-6. Vaudreuil to Pontchartrain, Oct. 25, 1711. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 859. Costebelle to same, July 24, 1711, (in Sir H. Walker's Journal, pp. 293, 288.) L'Hermite to same, Ib. p. 298, Hutchinson, Hist. Mass., ii., p. 181.

² Charles le Moyne de Longueuil, (1st Baron), son of Charles le Moyne, born at Montreal Dec. 10, 1656, wounded at Quebec in 1690, created Baron, Governor of Three Rivers and of Montreal. Administered the colony from Vaudreuil's death, Oct. 10, 1725, to Sept. 2, 1726. Daniel, i., p. 50-61.