

everything in favor of his allies. The result of his victory was, that the English despaired of establishing themselves at Detroit, a step that would have been utter ruin to New France, not only on account of the position of the place, which is the centre of Canada and the finest part, but also because it would have rendered impossible the least communication with the Upper Indians or Louisiana.

1712.

Fruit of
this
victory.

There were still many differences to settle between our allies, and the Governor-General judged it necessary for success, to begin by restoring Fort Michilimackinac. The next year he sent there Mr. de Louvigny, and towards the end of this year, he dispatched several officers of experience and merit to visit the nations of the North and West, and persuade them to lay aside all subjects of complaint that they had given one another. All this was effected with equal success and skill, and tranquillity was perfectly restored in Canada.

Yet it was impossible to induce these tribes to stop carrying their furs to the English, as they had openly done for some years. Even the domiciliated Indians soon followed the torrent, and to remedy this great evil, it would have been necessary to raise the price of beaver in France and diminish that of goods in Canada. The former of these two expedients did not depend on the traders; but had they well understood their interests, they would have adopted the second by sending every year to Quebec on their account goods to the amount of 40 or 50,000 francs. This increase would have brought down the price, and enabled the traders in the colony, to supply the Indians at lower rates; but there was no persuading them of this. Accordingly, the fur trade is now almost exclusively in the hands of the English.

Reason of
the decline
of trade in
Canada.

Meanwhile, although the negotiations for peace had not yet closed at Utrecht, the Governors-General of New France and New England received express orders from their sovereigns to stop absolutely all hostilities between the two nations and their allies; but they soon after received intelligence that the Queen of Great Britain had