

1712. withdrawn from the league formed to dethrone the Catholic king, Philip V.¹ Nothing could have come more seasonable for the government of Boston, which the Abnakis were ravaging in all directions, and this reason was certainly not the least influential in bringing the Court of London to the resolution, never to yield the point as to the cession of Acadia. They showed the same firmness as to our possessions in Newfoundland and Hudson Bay, and Louis XIV., who had also reasons of his own for raising no obstacles to the treaty, which he wished to conclude with her Britannic Majesty, at last sacrificed those three provinces, and the rights which he claimed over the five Iroquois cantons.

Territory
ceded to the
English by
the treaty
of Utrecht.

The
Iroquois
maintain
their
independ-
ence.

This last article did not deprive us of anything real, or give anything more to the English, as the Cantons renewed the protestations that they had already more than once made against the reciprocal pretensions of their neighbors, and they have succeeded quite well in maintaining possession of their liberty and independence. The English, who, with this exception, possess, in their regard, a part of the advantages to be derived from the sovereignty of a nation resolved to suffer no master, have not deemed it expedient to attempt to reduce them. They contented themselves with erecting, in course of time, a fort on Lake Ontario, at the mouth of the River Chouguen, (Oswego.) But as the Onondagas saw this establishment erected on their land without opposing it, we obtained of the Senecas permission to erect a similar one at the entrance of Niagara River, nearly on the site of the Marquis de Denonville's fort, in 1686. This permission they had refused the English, saying that they were their own masters to receive whom they pleased among them, and that they did not wish to have two nations there at once, to disturb the peace by their mutual animosity.

It was not the same in regard to the Abénaqui nations. The English, who were even more strongly bent on having

¹ Rale to Moody, Nov. 18, 1712, order to transmit to Canada and stop asking first positive intelligence in hostilities. Mass. Hist. Coll., 8. p. 258.