

these Indians as subjects than the Iroquois, imagined that they would meet no difficulty in the matter after the treaty of Utrecht, inasmuch as they thought that they had taken suitable measures to acquire the sovereignty of their country. Article XII of that treaty, declares that the most Christian King cedes to the Queen of England in perpetuity "Acadia or Nova Scotia, entire, according to its ancient limits, as also the city of Port Royal, now called Annapolis Royal, and generally all that depends on the said lands and islands of that country."¹

Her Britannic Majesty's commanders in New England and Acadia, on receiving the treaty, deemed nothing more urgent than the imparting of its contents to the Abénaquis; but they believed it necessary to observe considerable caution with tribes who were, they knew, no great lovers of their nation, and whose valor they had too frequently experienced, to feel at all tempted to reduce them by force. They did not even deem it expedient to begin by declaring that they considered them as subjects of the English Crown, convinced that in their actual state of feeling, such a proposition would only alienate them the more.²

The Governor-General of New England accordingly judged that before all else, they must be won over from their missionaries and gradually accustomed to live with the English. With this view, he sent to the mouth of the Kennebec, the ablest of the Boston ministers, to open a

1712.

English claims against the Abénaquis.

An English minister undertakes to seduce these tribes.

¹ Treaty of Utrecht, *Memoires des Commissaires*, ii., pp. 126-7.

² On hearing of the peace, the Indians came in to announce it, and July 11, 1713, eight delegates signed a treaty at Portsmouth, N. H., which no intelligent man will believe they understood. See it in Penhallow, *Indian Wars*, 78 &c.; and more correctly, *Maine Hist. Coll.*, vi., pp. 250-256. Further articles were obtained July 28, 1714. *Ib.* p. 257: and still further, at Arrowsick Island, Aug. 12, 1717. *Ib.* pp. 260-

262. Hutchinson, ii., p. 199. For French account, see *Rale, Lettres Edifiantes*—Kip's *Jesuit Missions*, p. 56. How they found an interpreter able to translate the law-terms of these written treaties into Abénaqui, is a mystery. The translation must have been oral—if literal, incomprehensible, if not, certainly not morally binding on them. Hutchinson, ii., p. 246, admits that they were in words of which the Indians had no adequate idea.