

1713-22. cheaper than they could buy them even at Boston. The Indians, finding the offer very advantageous, consented.

Many English settle on the banks of the Kennebec.

Another Englishman soon after solicited the same permission, offering still more advantageous conditions than the former, and this was also granted. This facility in the Indians emboldened the English; they settled in quite large numbers along the river, without taking the trouble to ask the consent of the natives of the country: erecting houses and even building forts, some of them of stone.¹

The Abénaquis did not seem offended, not perceiving the snare laid for them, and regarding only the convenience of finding in their new guests, all that they might desire; but at last, seeing themselves, as it were, surrounded by English settlements, they opened their eyes and began to distrust. They asked the English by what right they thus settled on their lands, and erected forts. They were told that the King of France had ceded their country to the English Crown, and the effect of this reply on their mind can be conceived, only when it is known to what a point these nations are jealous of their liberty and independence.

The Abénaquis protest that they are independent.

They made no reply to the English, but dispatched deputies at once to the Marquis de Vaudreuil, to ascertain from him whether it was true that the King of France had disposed in favor of the Queen of England of a country of which they claimed to be sole masters. The Governor-General's reply was, that the treaty of Utrecht did not mention their country, and this satisfied them. Some time before, the Governor-General of New England had assembled their chiefs, to impart to them intelligence of the peace concluded between the French and English, and having exhorted them to live on good terms with him, and forget all the past, he added that the King of France had given to the Queen of England, Placentia and Port Royal, with all the adjacent lands. A chief replied, that the King of France might dispose of what belonged to

¹ These settlements were evi- posed here by Charlevoix, not after
dently made prior to the time sup- 1721.