

1713-22. The Indians have a facility for believing what is told them, which the bitterest experience has never been able to cure: the Abénaquis at once appointed four deputies who proceeded to Boston, where they were astonished to see themselves arrested as prisoners as soon as they arrived. This was no sooner heard in their villages, than they sent to demand an explanation of such a strange proceeding.

They were told that their deputies were detained not as prisoners, but as hostages, to be released as soon as the nation had compensated the English for some cattle killed by the Indians in their settlements, the value of which amounted to two hundred pounds of beaver.¹ The Abénaquis did not admit the fact, still they did not wish to be reproached with having abandoned their brethren for so small a matter, and they paid the two hundred pounds of beaver.

This did not, however, advance matters. The prisoners were not given up, and various pretexts raised for their detention. At last, however, the Governor-General feared that this detention would lead to disagreeable results, and he proposed to the Abénaquis a conference to terminate their differences amicably. It was accepted; the day and place were fixed; the Indians came with Father Rasle; and Father de la Chasse, Superior-General of the Missions, who was making his visitation in those parts, where he had long been a missionary, also attended, but the English Governor failed to appear.²

Letter
of these
Indians
to the
Governor
General
of New
England.

The Indians were furious, and would have proceeded to violence had they not been restrained. The course they adopted, was to write a letter to the Governor: Father de la Chasse drew it up. Its substance was: 1st. That the Abénaquis could not understand why their deputies were retained in irons after the promise to release them as soon

¹ Penhallow makes the giving of the four hostages and the promise to pay 200 beaver-skins in 1720, voluntary. *Indian Wars*, p. 85.

² This was in July, 1721. Pen-

hallow, who commanded in the fort at Arrowsick, is silent as to any invitation from the Governor, but treats it as a spontaneous movement of the Indians, p. 86.