

was ascertained that the Iroquois were beginning to recover from their panic; that the English had made the Onondagas presents to replace their losses and induce them to rebuild their village, and that the Onondagas in fact expected that spring to plant the very fields laid waste by the French.

1697.

The two Mohawks on their side very haughtily asked the Count de Frontenac whether the road from their canton to Quebec was free; and one of them said, that he positively expected the restoration of his son, held as a prisoner in the colony. The general answered, that the first Iroquois who had the insolence to speak so to him, should be punished on the spot, but that he would pardon them in consideration for the two captives, whom they had brought back, but that they must accustom themselves to lower their tone before him; that he would no longer hear a word from them, till they were perfectly submissive to his will, and restored all the French still prisoners in their hands.

He moreover detained them all the rest of the winter, lest they might inform the cantons of the grounds where our allies were hunting, and meanwhile he dispatched fresh orders to Montreal to keep up harassing the enemy by small parties, so as to learn in season what was going on at New York and in the cantons.¹ On the 15th of May the Indians of Sault St. Louis and the Mountain offered their services to the Governor of Montreal, who, on notifying the Count de Frontenac, got answer, that neither the French nor the domiciliated Indians should go far, as he might soon have need of both.

Why
Frontenac
refuses to
permit the
Iroquois
Christians
to go to war

What induced this language was the arrival meanwhile of the Sieur Vincelotte, Canadian, coming overland from Mount Desert near Pentagoet, whence Mr. de Gabaret had landed him. He handed Frontenac dispatches from Court giving him intelligence that forbade his stripping the colony of troops. The minister informed him that

Information sent
him from
the Court

¹ L. Van Schaick (N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 168), shows that this system was so well kept up that many farms near Albany were abandoned.