

BOOK XVII.

THE rumors continually afloat, that fleets were fitting out in France, England, and Boston, puzzled the Count de Frontenac, while the King's orders to hold his troops and militia ready to march on an expedition which was always made a mystery, kept him in suspense in one of the most embarrassing junctures that he ever was in, when the Oneida chief whom Mr. de Callieres had sent back to his canton, came into Montreal alone, which in itself was a bad enough omen. 1697.

He nevertheless came forward with an air of confidence, which would have deceived any one but the Governor. He told him that having informed his brethren of the manner in which he and his party had been received by the French, all had evinced a decided disposition to follow his example; that the Onondagas had even avowed their readiness to accompany them; that they were going to begin by sending a belt to Ononthio to ascertain from him whether he wished to receive them also, and another to implore the Jesuits to ask peace for them from the God of the Christians, and that they conjured the Oneidas to wait for them.

The Iroquois seek to amuse Frontenac.

It was easy to see that all this was a device to gain time, and avert the storm which they dreaded to see bursting anew on the cantons, in the hope that it would soon be