

what had occurred, and the latter sent deputies to Count de Frontenac, to explain to him the absolute necessity of appeasing the Miamis, whose discontent might easily induce them to join the Iroquois. 1697.

The general's reply to the envoys was such as became so delicate a crisis : and he took proper steps to prevent the consequences of this unlucky affair. They did not however at once prevent the Miamis from continuing reprisals, when occasion offered ; so that Nicholas Perrot, with all his credit among them, was on the point of being burned, and escaped their fury only by means of the Foxes, (Outagamis,) who rescued him from their hands. At last the secret of calming them was discovered by showing them how much it was for their interest, as well as ours, not to quarrel with us, and at that time the matter went no further.¹

This event could not have happened at a more provoking moment for the Count de Frontenac. For the last two years the old complaints had been renewed against bushranging, and the last representations of all persons in the colony zealous for the cause of order, had produced their effect. The preceding year the King had expressly forbidden the Governor-General to permit any Frenchmen to go up to the Indian country to trade.

Frontenac's
embarrass-
ment.

In fact de Champigny and de Callieres, whose testimony on the point was above suspicion, were of opinion that his Majesty should be petitioned to restrict this prohibition, and they adduced reasons which could not be more solid. They had suggested a middle course, which in their opinion would remedy the whole, and this consisted in maintaining among the remote Indians only two posts, at Michillimakinac and on St. Joseph's River, to limit the number of French allowed to go there, and adopt other precautions which they suggested, to prevent the abuses so justly complained of.²

¹ Relation, 1696-7. N. Y. Col. iii., pp. 295-310. Perrot, Mœurs et Doc., ix., pp. 670-6. De la Potherie Coutumes, pp. 267, 312, 331. Hist. de l'Amérique, Septentrionale ² N. Y. C. Doc., ix., p. 663, 673, 678.