

to the English colonies in search of employment, strengthening those colonies and weakening ours.¹

1697.

Some of these reasons were extremely weak, the others proved clearly, that there are evils which it is dangerous to attempt to remedy at once. The authors of this memoir agreed with those who had presented the opposing ones as to all the disorders produced by the *congés*, and that the greatest of these disorders was the stop they had put to the progress of the Christian religion among the Indians : but all things considered, it was decided in the King's Council, that, to abandon posts, after establishing and maintaining them at such great expense, and inducing our allies to consider them as an advantage to them, would be to hold out to those tribes a temptation to give themselves up to the English.

They were confirmed in this idea by the information received that the Baron, that famous Huron chief whose pernicious designs and hostile mind have been already explained, had gone to settle near Albany with thirty families of his nation, and warmly urged the rest to follow him. It was accordingly resolved to adhere to the plan suggested by de Champigny and de Callieres, and as predicted by the ecclesiastics and missionaries, things quite speedily resumed the course they had previously taken. For with passions, as with gangrene, there is no cure but by mercilessly cutting away all that is infected.

Towards the end of August² the Sieur de la Motte Cadillac, whom Mr. de Callieres had informed of the rumors of armaments fitting out for the conquest of Canada, arrived at Montreal with a great number of Frenchmen, and three hundred Sacs, Pottowatamies, Ottawas and Hurons, whom he had succeeded in inducing to come to the aid of the colony. The Governor-General was then in that city, and in the audience which he gave these warriors, he manifested great satisfaction at their zeal, and especially at the ardor with which they had followed the Iroquois

Our allies
come to
the assist-
ance of the
colony.

¹ Pontchartrain to Frontenac, Apr. 28, 1697. N. Y. Col. Doc. ix. p. 662.

² Aug. 29, N. Y. Col. Doc. ix. p. 671.

³ *Ib.*