

and these had not come to Montreal to receive compliments, nor even solely to make war on the English. 1697.

Frontenac, who knew them and knew almost all that they had on their minds, told them that those who had any cause of complaint, might speak to him with perfect liberty, and that he would give them all the satisfaction they desired; but he added that they should beware of mutually weakening each other, and it was for their interest to continue pressing the Iroquois closely, as he on his side was determined not to spare them.

Then Onanguicé the Pottowatamie chief, a talented man and good speaker, addressed him in the name of all, saying that men generally promised much more than they apparently intended to do; that they had been frequently assured that they should not be allowed to want ammunition, but that none had been furnished for more than a year; that the English did not act so with the Iroquois, and that if the French continued to abandon them in that style, they would no more appear at Montreal.¹

The General, in reply, admitted that this year their usual annual supply had not been furnished, but assured them that they should lose nothing; that he had needed all his forces for a great war movement, which he could not yet explain to them, and that as soon as he had a certain number of French at his disposal, it would be his most urgent care to send them all they needed. This reply seemed to satisfy them, and they parted much pleased with each other.

All anxiety in regard to the English expeditions against Canada, seemed already dispelled, in as much as Frontenac dismissed the Indians without alluding to it.

He was even completely taken up with the enterprise for which he had been told to hold his troops in readiness, and which was still a mystery to him, when, on the 7th of September, Mr. des Ursins anchored before Quebec.²

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., 672-3; De la Potherie, iii., Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, p. 299-304.

² He came with the Amphitrite, and Gironde. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 675.