

1697.

Effect of  
Frontenac's  
great pre-  
parations.

the enemy who were expected, then to execute the orders from the Court, whatever they might be; but if these preparations served neither to repulse the English again from before Quebec, nor to make conquests from them, they at least kept the Iroquois in awe, and gave the colonists a tranquillity of which they had almost lost the very recollection.

It only remained to humble those savages in a manner to incapacitate them entirely and forever from troubling the colony; which seemed easy with the forces then on foot, but before adopting a final resolution on this point, the Count de Frontenac wished to see the result of the propositions which he had made in the month of November to the four upper cantons. These cantons had sent him deputies to solicit peace, and after declaring the conditions on which he would grant it, he had given them till the month of June in the following year to come to a decision, obliging them meanwhile to leave him hostages.

He raises a  
force and  
disbands it.

He then projected sending five hundred men against the Mohawks, who alone had taken no steps to effect a reconciliation with him; but when all was ready for this expedition he changed his mind, under the pretext that the snow was not good enough to march over in snow-shoes.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps he only intended to alarm the Mohawks, who were, he knew, in no condition to resist him, and whom he did not believe so imprudent as to risk seeing their towns ruined; yet they did not show any great concern, which mortified him greatly. Moreover, the Christian Iroquois,

<sup>1</sup> Captain de Louvigny was to command. New York Colonial Doc., ix., p. 680; De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale*, iv., p. 88. See ante vol. iv., pp. 137, 252. Perrot, p. 146, 153; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 939. The heavy snows and the impossibility of assembling men in season, compelled Frontenac to postpone the expedition; Schuyler's arrival (post 80) made him abandon it. Although operations still continued on both sides, ex-

changes of prisoners were made. Thus in 1695 Matthew Cary, sent by Lieutenant-Governor Stoughton, came to Tadoussac in a brigantine, and thence by boat to Quebec, where he effected an exchange. New York Colonial Documents, ix., p. 630-1. Papers connected with the exchange are to be published by W. B. Trask, Esq. The Indian exchanges were made independently.