

who had been prevented from going on their hunting expeditions by these preparations, and had doubtless counted on being made good at the expense of the Mohawks, demanded from him supplies for their support, and he had to satisfy them.

1697.

He had received by the last vessels a new ordinance from the King, which annoyed him still more than the Iroquois matters : it forbade all officers and soldiers, detached to distant posts, from carrying on any traffic, under penalty of being broken and degraded to the ranks if officers, and of the galleys, if soldiers. The same penalty was prescribed for voyageurs, of whom his Majesty wished none to be tolerated, enjoining on commandants to arrest all who should be found, and send them to the colony for trial.

New royal ordinance against bushlopers.

Frontenac however did not yield, and more than ever convinced of the risk of executing these new orders, from the murmurs and movements excited at the first announcement made of them, he thought himself justified in remonstrating with the Council. His representations were unavailing, and Mr. de Pontchartrain, by letter of the 21st of March in the year following, thus replied :

Frontenac remonstrates.

“His Majesty is very well pleased with the activity of all your preparations to join the Marquis de Nesmond, had time allowed him to carry out the orders he had received. I have attentively perused what you wrote as to the suppression of the congés ; you will please let me tell you, that you give a little too much credit to men, who, from motives of avarice, advocate trading in the woods. If you had considered the evil results it has produced, you would have condemned more severely so evil a practice.

“They have endeavored to make you fear that our Indian allies would join the Iroquois and make war on us, if we stopped going to trade with them in the woods. I confess I do not clearly see the reason for this, and it seems to me that we should expect just the reverse, provided pains are taken to explain to the Indians, that his Majesty’s intention in making this prohibition, is to enable them to