

1697. get goods from the French at first hand, to permit them to sell theirs at perfect liberty, and secure them the profit of the trade with Indians lying beyond them.

Pontchar-  
train's  
reply.

"You are too familiar with the History of Canada, not to know that the war, that we have for so many years sustained against the Iroquois with so much cost and care, arose solely from the fact that the late Mr. de la Barre had wished to carry on trade with more remote nations. Those Indians, who are now allied to the English, would not be long in turning against them, if the English wished to pass through their country to go and trade directly with other Indians."<sup>1</sup>

This letter had no effect, beyond the publication of the King's last ordinance, which the Count de Frontenac at once promulgated;<sup>2</sup> but the preservation of the advanced posts, which the King had authorized on the representations of the Intendant and the Governor of Montreal, soon restored to power the congés, and the trade the Minister sought to abolish.

To return to the Iroquois. What contributed most to keep alive Frontenac's hopes of a speedy and durable peace with that nation, was the fact that they and the English had been pretty roughly handled by our allies during the preceding campaign. The Abénaquis had terminated it by a stroke of great vigor, having carried, tomahawk in hand, a fort only six leagues from the capital of New England, the entire garrison being taken or killed.<sup>3</sup> Almost at the same time twenty Iroquois, who had gone to surprise the Ottawas, were discovered and entirely defeated by the Hurons.<sup>4</sup>

But what completed the consternation of these haughty foemen, was the check they received near Catarocouy.

<sup>1</sup> Pontchartrain to Frontenac, May 21, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 678.

<sup>2</sup> They are not in the recently collected Edits et Ordonnances.

<sup>3</sup> Apparently Lancaster, where 20 or 30 were killed in Sept., 1697.

Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., ii., p. 100. Murdoch, Hist. Nova Scotia, i., pp. 234-7, give other operations in Maine.

<sup>4</sup> This seems to be the Rat's victory already noted, ante p. 68.