

1698. The Count de Frontenac replied by a letter dated the 8th of June, in which after meeting politeness by politeness, he states that although he had not received from his royal master a confirmation of the peace, he would without difficulty hand over to Messrs. Schuillier and Dellius, the English and Dutch who were prisoners in his colony and who were willing to return; that he had never refused to make these exchanges in the very heat of the war, notwithstanding the ill-treatment which Captain de Villieu and several other Frenchmen had received at the hands of the English, and capitulations more than once violated; that he was convinced he would not approve such proceedings, nor suffer Captain Baptiste, a privateer,¹ to be any longer kept in chains and treated with greatest rigor.

Frontenac's
reply.

He then said that he could not understand his empowering Messrs. Schuillier and Dellius to demand back the Iroquois prisoners in New France, promising to restore the French among them; that these nations had been negotiating with him since the preceding autumn, and had left in his hands a hostage as a security for their word; that he would treat with them alone; and that it was useless for him to interfere in that negotiation, as they were disobedient children to their father, and had always been under the King's dominion, even before the English became masters of New York; that he had such precise orders not to swerve from this principle, that he could not avoid obeying it till he received counter orders; that no difficulties arising on this point, would affect the good understanding which he hoped to maintain with him; that immediately on receiving the first intelligence of peace, he had taken suitable measures to prevent the Indians domiciliated in the French colony from continuing their hostilities against the English settlements; that he had given the same direction to the Canibas and other Indians living on the Acadia coast; but as they were quite remote from him, and much incensed at the detention of several of their

¹ Baptist was not released till after 1705. Murdoch, i., p. 279.