

1698.

people as prisoners at Boston, he feared they might proceed to some lamentable extremity, unless they were at once satisfied on this score; that till this was done, he could not oblige them to give up the English prisoners then among them, and that he believed them justified in not yielding on this point, inasmuch as they had been frequently dupes of their good faith, having on different occasions given up Englishmen, without succeeding in getting any of their own men in exchange.¹

Messrs. Schuiller and Dellius² set out with this reply, charmed with the pleasant manners and gracious reception given them by the Count de Frontenac. About two months after, some Iroquois of Sault St. Louis waited on the Governor-General with intelligence from the Mohawks that gave him much pleasure. They had just come from that canton, to which they had gone on a visit to their kindred, a thing these Indians could not refrain from doing from time to time, even in the heart of the war; we have seen the umbrage taken at it more than once by Count de Frontenac; but neither he nor their missionaries had succeeded in effecting any reform on this point.³

They stated that during their stay^{*} in this country, the Chevalier de Bellomont had held a great council, which was attended by the sachems of the five cantons: that the Mohawks had begun by declaring that they were masters of their own lands, on which they had been living long before the English appeared; that to show him that all the places occupied by the nation belonged to it as their own, they were going to throw into the fire all the papers given to them or signed on various occasions, as they did on the spot.

Conduct
of the
Mohawks
towards
Bellomont

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 690-1.

² Lossing, Life of Schuyler, i. p. 25, evidently confounds John and Peter Schuyler.

Godfrey Dell, or Dellius, came to Albany in 1688 as Dutch minister, was imprisoned by Leisler in 1690, recalled by Sloughter in 1691. After the mission here described, Bel-

lomont turned against him, and by act of the Legislature suspended him in 1699. He then went to Europe and was alive in 1714.

Bellomont's instructions to them will be found in N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 340, and their mission, p. 347.

³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 684. De la Potherie, iv., p. 204.