

that the English Governor and the Iroquois distrusted each other and were acting cautiously, that the latter were glad to avail themselves of the former to obtain better conditions, and that the Governor wished to profit by the occasion to obtain the right of sovereignty of the English crown over the cantons; but that it would not be impossible to use these dispositions on both sides to effect a breach between them, and that the surest way of succeeding was to gain the Iroquois by showing them that the English wished to dispose of their country and themselves as masters.

1698.

With this view, as he had learned meanwhile that some Mohawks had come to Sault St. Louis, also to visit their kindred, he not only sent to recommend the latter to receive them well, but he even invited them to come to Montreal, where by his orders nothing was omitted to regale them well and express the joy felt at seeing them. They were touched by it, and remained in that city quite a time, with a confidence from which the people augured well for the future. The more enlightened did not rely upon it, but it was something flattering for these Indians to see themselves thus sought by two powers, either of which could have destroyed them in less than one campaign, and whose mutual jealousy they had contrived to work upon so skillfully as to inspire fear, and in some sort respect, from both.

Frontenac
undertakes
to gain
them.

A second letter which the Count de Frontenac received from the Chevalier de Bellomont, dated New York, August 13th, confirmed Frontenac's opinion, that his best course in the present conjuncture was to endeavor to inspire the cantons with distrust of the English, or rather increase that distrust they already felt, so as to lead them to some step suited to our interest. This letter and the Count de Frontenac's reply I have deemed worth inserting.

“I have but just arrived from the frontiers, where I had a conference with our Five Nations of Indians, whom you style Iroquois. They most earnestly begged me to continue them under the protection of the King, my Master,