

masters had resolved to name commissioners on both sides, to regulate the limits of the territories over which their authority in these countries was to extend. Therefore, sir, it seems to me that before assuming the tone you do, you should have awaited the decision to be made by the commissioners, and should not intrude to traverse a proceeding already begun, and which may be regarded as domestic, inasmuch as it is a father seeking by all species of means to recall his children to their duty, beginning by those of mildness, resolved to use more severe measures, in case the first produce no effect.

1698.

“It is a matter which you must consider entirely distinct from the treaties of peace and friendship, mutually concluded by the Kings our masters, and you cannot interfere in it, without showing, that instead of employing all means to endeavor to maintain harmony between the two nations, . . . you seek pretexts to impair the treaties, which have been concluded, wherein I doubt whether you are authorized by his Britannic Majesty. For, on my own part, while seeking to oblige the Iroquois to fulfill their promise made to me, before it could be known that peace had been made between the two crowns, and for which they have given me hostages, I am but following the course I had taken ; while you, sir, depart from yours, by setting up pretensions which are new and groundless.

“In fact you wish me to tell you that I am sufficiently aware of the opinions of the Iroquois to know that there is not one of the Five Nations which . . . would desire to be under the rule of England, and that you have no proof to convince them of your right, whilst those which we possess and which will be placed in the hands of the commissioners, are so incontestable, that I doubt whether the slightest answer can be made. I am therefore, sir, resolved to pursue my course, and I request you not to attempt to thwart me, because your efforts would be useless, and all the protection and aid you assure me you have already afforded, and will continue to afford the Iroquois in violation of the terms of the treaty, will not cause me