

1698.

it is possible to be at that age, preserving all the firmness and vivacity of mind that characterized his best years. He died as he had lived, beloved by many, esteemed by all, and with the glory of having, almost unaided by France, sustained and even augmented a colony unprotected and assailed on all sides, and which he had found on the brink of ruin. He seemed to have much solid religious principle, and till his death constantly gave public marks of it. He was never accused of self-interest; but it was not easy to reconcile the piety he professed, with his conduct toward those against whom he had taken a prejudice. The asperity of his somewhat sombre disposition, and a low jealousy which never left him, prevented his enjoying all the fruit of his success, and somewhat dimmed his character, which was distinguished by firmness, nobility and lofty ideas. Yet withal, New France was indebted to him for all that she was at his death, and the great void it left was soon marked.¹

Attempt
of the
Iroquois to
deceive the
Chev. de
Callieres.

In fact the Iroquois had no sooner learned that he was no more, than they supposed they could with impunity violate the kind of treaty which they had made with him, but they wished to act cautiously, before an open declaration. In the month of March following they sent deputies to Montreal,² and it was easily perceived that their only design was to ascertain the condition of the colony deprived of its head. In their fashion they bewailed the death of their Father; they presented to the Governor of Montreal, who was invested with the general command, three French prisoners, and they promised him to restore all the others, if he would set at liberty their countrymen still retained by him.

They then begged him to send the Sieur de Maricourt with them, accompanied by two Indians of Sault St. Louis and the Mountain, to go with them to Albany where the

¹ He was buried in the church of tel Dieu p. 378, De la Potherie, iv., the Recollects, and his funeral sermon, pronounced by Father Olivier, p. 111.

² They were Onhouentsiouann, Tsonhuastsuam and Otaxesté, De la Potherie, iv., p. 115.