

connections of the Count de Frontenac, nor the rank of Lieutenant-General in the King's armies, he was no less able than he, to enforce obedience, and yet not a man to make the burthen of authority too clearly felt.

1698.

The governorship of Montreal, vacant by de Callieres' promotion, was given to the Chevalier de Vaudreuil, then at court, his activity, pleasant address, noble and amiable manners, as well as the confidence of military men in him, admirably fitting him to fill a post of that importance. Catarocouy was then also a post of great consequence, and his Majesty directed the new Governor-General to confer the command only on vigilant officers, able to act by themselves, when time and the necessity of the moment prevented their awaiting his orders, and on whom he could rely, as a second self, for the preservation of such a fort.¹

Mr. DeVaudreuil
Governor
of
Montreal.

The Governor of New England had then turned his attention mainly to the Abénaqui nations, and under pretext that the Kinibequi, (Kennebec,) where the Canibas had always had their principal towns, was in possession of the English, he held the same pretensions in regard to these Indians as in regard to the Iroquois. The King, in a letter addressed to the Count de Frontenac under date of March 25th, (his Majesty not yet knowing his death,) ordered him to act in concert with the English General; directing, however, at the same time, that till the boundaries of the two colonies were settled, he should strictly adhere to the course of not suffering any change in regard to the allies of both crowns, and maintain all things in relation to it, on the same footing as in the commencement of August of the preceding year.²

Pretensions
of the
Governor
of New
England as
to the
Canibas.

However, as the French were very sure of the Canibas, and in general of all the Abenaqui nations, the younger Father Bigot having come in the beginning of January to inform Mr. de Callieres that the English seemed disposed to treat in good faith with those Indians, the Commandant replied that he saw no objection to letting

¹ For a sketch of Vaudreuil, see ante, iii., p. 282.

² Louis XIV. to Frontenac, 25th March, 1699, N. Y. C. Doc., ix., p. 697.