

the disposition of the English governor in regard to the Abénaquis and Iroquois. 1699.

The last had quite recently sent a deputation to the new Governor-General, to compliment him on his promotion, but the deputies had not spoken of business, and information came some time after, that a party of this nation had committed hostilities against the Miamis and killed several.¹ It seemed nevertheless that the cantons generally were inclined to peace, and deferred concluding it only out of consideration for the English. On the other hand Bellomont was convinced that these Indians would never remain neutral, and that they must necessarily declare for or against the French.

Bellomont still assumes to be arbiter of peace.

In this idea, as he had positive orders from the King of Great Britain to compel them to lay down arms, orders that he could not dissemble, inasmuch as the Chevalier de Callieres had seen them, and retained a duplicate, he resumed the design of making himself the sovereign arbiter of the treaty. Thus on learning the engagements made by the cantons with the late Count de Frontenac, he summoned them to meet him at Albany. They refused, and he, surprised at this refusal, sent them confidential agents, who succeeded in persuading them to spin the matter out.²

They accordingly failed to appear at Montreal, although they had recently promised the Chevalier de Callieres to be there, and had set a time for their arrival, and that general, not to be surprised by those savages, put himself in a position to make war actively, should they attempt to renew hostilities: but his best and most effectual step to overthrow Bellomont's batteries was his sending to Onondaga a copy of the King of England's letter to that governor, and in this he had more than one object. For in the first place he wished to inform the Iroquois, that the English regarded them simply as subjects of their

De Callieres' policy to compel the Iroquois to make peace without him.

¹ De la Potherie, iv., p. 131. N. 654-661. They met him at Albany Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 704. June 30, 1700. N. Y. Col. Doc. p.

² See N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., 562-573, 693.