

some lesser help. 4th, I grant that we might take the place by force; I ask, after that is done, who will secure our fleets against those that have been driven away, and likewise the country, which they will try to surprise as we shall have surprised them? And it is to be observed that it is the Company [471] of the Indies<sup>20</sup> that occupies the settlement there, and that would resent it if that were removed. 5th, if the attempt failed, that would certainly incite them against the people of Kébec, and they would furnish more arms than ever to the Iroquois; they might, indeed, join with them to do us harm in the country. 6th, what certainty have we that that will oblige the Iroquois to make peace with our savages? and yet it is upon the assurance of such peace that this whole project is founded. Now we ask if, upon this hope alone, of the fulfillment of which we have no certainty, we should make a definite outlay of so great a sum as is necessary for this purpose, and should expose ourselves to the dangers mentioned above? I would like to request your Reverence to have your opinion of this matter written to me; and, in order that you may better give it, here are the arguments that Father Le Jeune urges in favor of undertaking the enterprise:

If these people are not driven away by making terms with them, or by force of arms, the country is always in danger of being ruined, the mission of being broken up, the nuns of returning, and the colony of being destroyed; the door of the gospel is closed to many very populous nations, and our fathers are in peril of being taken and burned.

There is hope that they can be driven away. Monsieur de Noyers has encouraged him to expect,