

His harangue was interrupted by the usual ceremony of offering presents, [27] of which, at each of the heads of his speech, he laid one at the feet of Monsieur de Tracy, who replied to his petitions with all the kindness the other could desire. Not only did he grant him the three prisoners and promise him peace and the King's protection for his nation, but he even led him to hope for the same grace toward the other Iroquois nations, if they preferred voluntarily to assume a respectful attitude, rather than suffer themselves to be constrained thereto by force of arms.

Still, as we must not expect to enjoy any advantage over those nations, except so far as we seem able to harm them, preparations were made for a military expedition against such as had not concluded peace with us. Monsieur de Courcelles, who [28] was the Leader of the party, used all possible diligence, so that he found himself ready to start on the 9th of January of the year 1666. He was accompanied by Monsieur du Gas, whom he took for his Lieutenant; Monsieur de Salampar, a Gentleman volunteer; Father Pierre Raffeix, a Jesuit; 300 men from the Regiment of Carignan-Salieres; and 200 habitans of the French Colonies as volunteers. This march could only be slow, as every man wore snowshoes, with the use of which they were unfamiliar; while all, without excepting the Officers, or Monsieur de Courcelles himself, were burdened each with 25 or 30 livres of biscuit, blankets, and other necessary supplies.

In all history there can scarcely be found [29] a march of more difficulty or greater length than that of this little army; and it needed French courage and Monsieur de Courcelles's firmness to undertake it.