have sent to those officers, which I had the honor to report to you in my last letters.

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1687–89: HOSTILITIES BETWEEN FRENCH AND IROQUOIS.

[NOTE: Frontenac had been recalled to France, and succeeded (1682) by Le Febvre de la Barre—an old man, ignorant of the affairs of the colony and of the Indian character, and eager to make money. Engaging in the fur trade, his interests and those of the Canadian merchants leagued with him were imperiled by the Iroquois, who attacked and plundered the French traders. These savages, moreover, endeavored to secure for themselves the monopoly of the trade with the Algonquian tribes on the upper lakes, in order to divert it from Canada to the English and Dutch of New York; and their insatiable ambition and ferocity led them to attempt the conquest of those Northwestern tribes. As we have seen in the third document of this series, the Iroquois had made their way into Wisconsin as early as 1651; and in 1680 they destroyed the great Illinois village near La Salle's Fort St. Louis. In 1684, La Barre led an army into the Iroquois country, but accomplished nothing, save to render those savages more arrogant and turbulent than before. This failure caused La Barre's immediate recall; his successor (1685) being the Marquis de Denonville. The latter, a far abler and more honest man, strove to restrain the Iroquois, and to counteract the influence exercised over them by the English and Dutch; he also endeavored to secure and extend French ascendency on the upper lakes and in the Mississippi valley; but he was greatly hampered by lack of troops and money. Finally securing supplies of men and money from France, he conducted an army (June–July, 1687) against the Senecas, destroying their villages and crops; and afterward built a fort at the mouth of Niagara river. But he had incensed more than he had injured the Senecas; and in this same campaign he had committed a cruel and treacherous act by seizing, under pretext of a friendly conference, some two hundred peaceable and inoffensive Iroquois (including the