

1688-90: DISTURBANCES AMONG THE UPPER TRIBES, WHICH
ARE QUELLED BY PERROT.

[From La Potherie.]

La Petite Racine ["Little Root"], who had come on behalf of his tribe to be a Witness of all that should take place in the general Peace Council, found an altogether extraordinary change in the condition of affairs;¹ he traded the Peltries that he had brought down, and promptly returned home. Monsieur Denonville despatched with him a canoe, by which he sent his orders to Monsieur de la Durantaye, Commandant at Michilimakinak. This Chief, on his return, caused universal alarm. The Outaouaks informed all the tribes of the devastation that had been inflicted upon the French, and entreated all the Chiefs to come to Michilimakinak, that they might consult together upon the measures that ought to be taken regarding the wretched condition into which they were going to be plunged. They resolved in their general Council to send two Tsonnon-touan Deputies, with two of those Iroquois old men whom they had set free, in order to assure the Iroquois that they would have no further connection with the French, and that they desired to maintain with the Iroquois a close alliance.

The Hurons feigned not to join in the Revolt of the Outaouaks; the policy of those peoples is so shrewd that it is difficult to penetrate its secrets. When they undertake any enterprise of importance against a nation whom they fear, especially against the French, they seem to form two parties—one conspiring for and the other opposing it; if the former succeed in their projects, the latter approve and sustain what has been done; if their designs are thwarted, they retire to the other side. Accordingly, they always attain their objects. But such was not the case in this emergency; they were so terrified by La Petite Racine's report that neither the Jesuits nor the Commandant could pacify those people—who reproached them, with the most atrocious insults, saying that the French had abused them. Matters reached so pitiable a condition that Monsieur

¹A reference to the Iroquois raids on the St. Lawrence, and the consequent fear of them prevalent among the French.—Ed.