

assembled, they will be obliged to disperse in order to hunt; and Sieur de Louvigny will have them pursued and harassed by different parties that he will send after them.

1714: MEMOIR ON DETROIT; PLEA FOR TROOPS.

[“Supposed to have been written by Captain de la Forest,” is E. B. O’Callaghan’s note on this document.]

It is for the King’s glory and the interest of the Colony to preserve the post of Detroit, for divers reasons.

The first and principal is, that if that post be abandoned, the English would render themselves masters thereof, as it is separated only by Lake Herié [Erie] from the Iroquois, the near neighbors of the English, who have already made two attempts to seize it, and to form an establishment there, by means of which they would carry on the whole trade with all the Indian nations our allies. The first was in 1686, when they sent 7 Englishmen from Orange with 5 Abenaki Mohegans (*Loups*), to sound the disposition of the Indians as to whether these would be glad to receive them the following year, when they would bring some goods; and, in fact, they did perform their promises to the Indians in 1687, but were met by the French who were marching by M^r de Denonville’s orders against the Iroquois. The French and Indians, to the number of 800 men, who had set out from Detroit and other posts occupied by the French, to join M^r de Denonville at the Senecas on the borders of Lake Ontario, encountered 32 canoes, in which were 60 Englishmen and some Mohegans who had gone from Orange with merchandise to trade at the Detroit with the Outaouis and Hurons, then at Michilimakina; the whole of their goods were plundered and distributed among the Indians and French, as contraband and in the possession of a people without a passport either from the King or from the Governor-general of New France. The parties were sent to Fort Frontenac, where they remained until the return of M^r de Denonville, who transferred them to Quebec—whence after a detention of three weeks, he sent them