

as to make sure of those whose dispositions are bad or wavering. As a rule, you will find the officers disposed to put an end to quarrels with the savages by means of conciliation; but it is certain, and experience has at all times proved it, that they can be restrained only by well-advised examples of severity, and you must not neglect any opportunity of making them.

Finally, by his letter of November 8, Monsieur de La Galissonnière reports the arrival of the Iroquois nations at Quebec, with the exception of the Anniés,³³ who had sided with the English, in the first years of the war. His Majesty could not but approve of the conduct of Monsieur de La Galissonnière towards those Savages. You will learn that, in their conferences, the question of the pretension of the English to authority over them and their lands was discussed. The English consider these lands as forming part of their possessions, and the Iroquois as subjects of Great Britain. Those savages claim to be and in fact are independent of all nations, and their lands incontestably belong to them. They have at all times rebelled against the claim of the English. Monsieur the Comte de La Galissonnière seems to have decided them to insist upon their rights; and there is reason to believe they will do this all the more eagerly, because information had already been received that, a short time previously, they had treated the English of Orange and Costak³⁴ with the greatest contempt. As those Savages were still at Quebec when the last ships sailed, you will be informed of whatever else has happened in connection with them. There is a probability of your seeing them yourself this year. You are already informed of their views which are to maintain neutrality which they have long made the basis of their policy; but if, on account of what may have occurred between them and the English, they could be induced

³³ The French appellation for the tribe known to the English as Mohawk.—Ed.

³⁴ The term "Orange" was frequently employed for the town of Albany. "Costak" is apparently a misspelling for New York.—Ed.