

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

BOYS AND GIRLS:—

The flotilla having reached the shore of the Bay, into which his Indian allies guided it, Count Frontenac immediately landed, made close examination of the wooded banks, re-embarked in his canoe for further explorations, and did not return to his company until sunset. He had seen much and thought more in the interval. At the head of the Bay, which was really the mouth of another river, he had found a prairie or meadow, more than a league in extent, as handsome and level as any in France, with a river running through its midst, "very wide, and capable of admitting barks and vessels continuously." If you ever drive out to Kingston Mills, observe how closely this description tallies with what you may yet see. This discovery but served to confirm his determination to permanently occupy a point so important for trade and military enterprise. He was a man of action. So resolve was with him to do, and before he retired to rest in his tent, he had consulted with his chief Military Officer, Sieur Rendin, and directed him to trace out, on the following morning, the lines of a proposed fortification. He arranged, too, for a conference with the Iroquois. Soon after sunrise next morning, mass was said, and probably a Te Deum sung by the Priests Abbe D'Urfe and his brother Missionaries, who had already established a station on the Bay of Quinte; and, breakfast disposed of, preparations were made for the first reception, in due form, of the Iroquois Sacnems and their Huron rivals. Sails were brought from the bateaux and spread on the ground in front of the Count's tent, and the French troops were stretched in double file, from that point to

the barkhuts of the Iroquois. Sixty of the warlike nation, arrayed in decorations of paint and feathers, which mean so much to the Indian mind, advanced through these lines of armed men, and solemnly formed a circle in front of the tent of Frontenac. He, wearing the brilliant uniform of a French General Officer, courteously received them. A crowd of Squaws and children fringed the ring of warriors. Gargantie, an Iroquois, but always a warm friend of the French, addressed the Count, telling him how joyfully his people had heard, through Sieur De La Salle, of the intention of the great Onontio, as they termed the Governor, to visit them, and what pleasure it gave them to see him in their midst. Other Chiefs of the Five Nations then addressed him, and their talk was supplemented by the presentation to him of belts of Wampum, an unusual gift in those days, and one regarded as of great value by the donors. Wampum, it may be said in passing, was made of beads, formed from sea-shells, and worked into shape at the cost of much time and labor, strung upon sinew and used as money. The Count graciously accepted the proffered gifts, ordered a fire to be lighted, and briefly, through an interpreter, spoke to his audience, thanking them for their liberality, but declining to address them at greater length before another day. This was followed by the gifts of "something to open their ears." A gun was given to each Nation, with powder and lead, and prunes and raisins were presented to the women, with wine, brandy and biscuits. The women were invited to the tent of the Governor to receive more raisins and prunes, and reciprocated this generosity by exhibiting their native dances. The Chiefs, too, a few each day, were invited to dine with the Count, and thus