

some guides, who conducted him to a place of safety; and then both parties took up arms.

The French presently spread terror among the Indians bordering upon the great lakes; but Denonville had neither the activity nor the expedition necessary to improve these first successes—while he was taken up in deliberating, instead of acting, the campaign was closed without the acquisition of any permanent advantage. This increased the boldness of the Iroquois, who lived near the French settlements, where they repeatedly committed the most dreadful ravages. The planters finding their labours destroyed by these depredations, which deprived them of the means of repairing the damages they had sustained, ardently wished for peace. Denonville's temper coincided with their wishes; but it was no easy matter to pacify an enemy rendered implacable by ill-usage. Lamberville, who still maintained his former ascendant over them, made overtures of peace, which were listened to. While these negotiations were carrying on, a Machiavel, born in the forests, known by the name of *LE RAT*, the bravest, the most resolute, the most intelligent savage ever found in the wilds of North America, arrived at Fort Frontenac, with a chosen band of Hurons, fully determined upon exploits worthy of the reputation he had acquired. He was told that a treaty was actually on foot; that the Deputies of the Iroquois were upon the road to conclude it at Montreal, and that it would be an insult upon the French governor if they should carry on their hostilities against a nation with which they were negotiating a peace. *Le Rat*, piqued that the French should thus enter into negotiations without consulting their allies, resolved to punish them for their presumption. He lay in wait for the deputies; some of whom were killed, and the rest taken prisoners. When the latter told him the purport of their voyage, he feigned the greater surprise, as Denonville, he said, had sent him to intercept them. In order to carry on the deceit more successfully, he immediately released them all, except one, whom he pretended to keep, to replace one of his Hurons who had been killed in the fray. He then hastened to Michillimakinac, where he presented his prisoner to the French commandant, who, not knowing that Denonville was treating with the Iroquois, caused the unhappy savage to be put to death. Immediately after this, *Le Rat* sent for an old Iroquois, who had long been a prisoner among the Hurons, and gave him his liberty to go and acquaint his nation, that, while the French were amusing their enemies with negotiations, they continued to take prisoners and murder them. This artifice, worthy of the most infamous European policy, succeeded as the savage *Le Rat* desired. The war was renewed with greater fury than ever, and lasted the longer, as the English, about this time, projected the reduction of Canada.

With this view an English fleet appeared in the Saint Lawrence in October, 1690. As the ships were sailing up the river, the troops marched by land, in order to reach the scene of action at the same instant as the fleet. They were nearly arrived, when the Iroquois, who conducted and supported them, recollected the hazard they ran in leading their allies to the conquest of Quebec. This consideration instantly induced them to desert the English and return to their homes, and, from motives of policy, to stifle their resentment against the French. The war, therefore, was carried on merely by a few depredations, fatal to the colonists, but of little consequence to the nations concerned in them. During the