

lords, and children of all ages were looking on, though not with childish wonder, for they are taught at an early age, to suppress every outward sign of emotion. Many of the young squaws attracted admiration by the forest beauty of their elastic forms, their smooth olive complexions, and the lustre of their large dark eyes, soft as a gazelles and fringed with long jetty lashes.

One of the chief warriors stood up and addressed *Ononthio*, as the Governor was called, in terms sufficiently arrogant, and a style quite as boastful as an orator of the pale faces would assume. He declared the object of their visit was solely to render themselves useful to the French to renew their treaty of amity, and to bring rich furs, which they could not otherwise obtain, in exchange for articles of common use, but little valued. They also desired muskets and powder that they might harass the Iroquois, and hinder them from annoying the French settlements.

In conclusion, they offered a belt of wampun and a porcelaine collar; in token of continued friendship, and presented to *Kitchi Okima*, the great Captain or Governor-General, a bundle of beaver skins, of costly value, demanding his protection while they remained in the encampment.

The Governor was pleased to return a courteous answer to the address, it being explained to him by an interpreter, and he also deigned to accept the furs, while, in return, he presented them with some trifling but showy articles which pleased their savage eyes, and were accepted in good faith by the unsuspecting visitants. The interview thus closed, the Indians returned to their encampment. They then unpacked their furs, and prepared to traffic with the citizens; and all day the town was filled with savages, and their dusky figures were seen going from shop to shop, with the bow and arrows in their hands, looking, with grave curiosity, at the tempting articles exhibited. They would take neither gold nor silver, which were of course valueless to them, and the merchants and trades-people knew well how to impose on their credulity, and make profitable bargains for themselves.

The squaws brought their own little wares to barter—pretty willow baskets and moccasins of deer-skin wrought with porcupine quills, which found always ready purchasers. Young mothers mingled with the crowd, carrying their papoosees at their back,—their supple limbs stretched on a board, tightly swathed, and covered with soft bark or leaves, so that only a little tawny head was visible, looking out with bright, wondering black eyes upon the busy multitude.

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Valois had parted from his friend Mavicourt, and was already far away on his long voyage to the great distant lakes. The expedition, in which he held command, was conducted in person by the Chevalier de Vaudreuil, who had lately arrived at Quebec with a reinforcement of troops to relieve the citizens from military duty. The Count de Frontenac, almost single-handed, sustained the interests of the colony, and his sound policy and determined energy, had brought it into a prosperous state, in spite of obstacles and discouragements innumerable. He had an accurate knowledge of the country, and the most distant movements of the hostile Indians seemed intuitively known to him, for his vigilance never slumbered, and his sagacity seemed never at fault.

His plans were often thwarted by the bad counsel of the King or his advisers, for Louis XIV., however skilful in his great projects and successful as he was on the battle-fields of Europe, could have little knowledge of savage warfare, or the peculiar difficulties of a remote colony, struggling for existence under the most embarrassing local circumstances. The orders issued from the home department, even by the wise Colbert, would have annihilated the colony, if the Count de Frontenac had not often evaded, and sometimes acted in open defiance to them. The sagacity of his conduct was confirmed by its success. The plan of a campaign drawn out at three thousand miles distance, though suggested by great statesmen and experienced officers, could not be followed out in a struggle with savages, whose predatory habits set all regular warfare at defiance. A royal order had been transmitted, to abandon all distant forts, and close the trading ports at the outlets of the great rivers. It was thought advisable to confine the inhabitants to narrower limits, and encourage the peaceful arts of agriculture.

But the Count ventured to disregard this order—the spirit of the age was adventurous, and the early colonists were willing to hazard life for the hope of gain. The citizens demanded the right of traffic with the natives, and the commerce in peltries brought large revenue to the colony, while it was a source of private emolument to those concerned in it. He knew also that the English at New York and New England only waited an opportunity to seize those forts, and establish foot hold in the French territory, and their abandonment would also give courage to the Iroquois, their allies, who already boasted that *the French were dead*—a significant expression used by them to intimate the weakness of an enemy. After repeated applications, the King