

coasted its eastern waters, ascended the Oswego River, crossed Onondaga Lake, and encamped upon its borders. He then plunged, with his forces, into the vast wilderness, in search of the Iroquois. Arriving at the principal castle or village of the Onondagas, into whose particular canton or country he had penetrated, he found it deserted. Pushing farther then into the wilderness, Frontenac discovered nothing of his wild enemies, and finally, in disappointment, he retraced his march. On his return path, however, the Iroquois waylaid his steps, killed a number of his men, and did not cease their attacks until he had entirely left their territory.

The Iroquois at that time consisted of five nations, viz.: the Mohawks, Oneidas, Cayugas, Onondagas, and Senecas, occupying a territory which they figuratively called their "Long House," extending from east to west over what is now the state of New York, from the Lakes Erie and Ontario to the Hudson River.

These Indian nations had banded themselves into a League or Confederacy, at first for protection against their common enemies, and afterwards for conquest. The time of the formation of this League is not known,