

valley of the Ohio, the Algonquins and Wyandots of the St. Lawrence valley, the Abenakis of Maine, the Etchemins and Souriquois of Acadia—all these were unswerving allies of the French. The English settler or trader had never been able, as a rule, to win the friendship of the Indian tribes. He was always a stranger to their customs, and was never heartily welcomed at their camp-fires, like the French *coureur de bois* or *voyageur*. The Frenchman studied and imitated their habits, took to himself an Indian wife, or mistress, according to his pleasure, shared their savage feasts and orgies. Frontenac did not think it beneath his dignity to take part in their dances, and he is only an illustrious example of the aptitude of the French of all classes to adapt themselves to Indian conditions, and in that way win their friendship. At the same time, the French met the Indians on a basis of equality—not in that spirit of superiority and arrogance which too often characterized the relations

of the English with the savage nations, and which they with their keen sagacity at once detected and resented. The French understood Indian nature, and made their gifts, not with an air of condescension, but with an obvious desire to please a friend and equal. The Indian character is a strange compound of cupidity and meanness. At the same time, he has, under some circumstances, an exaggerated idea of his own dignity and importance as a chief or warrior. The French understood his susceptibilities in these respects, and never wounded

them by treating them as a child or a woman, which was the greatest insult that could be heaped on them. Frontenac and Callières knew when to be firm, and even stern, in their negotiations with them; but they never insulted them by exhibitions of meanness or stinginess, or made them believe they were attempting to gain an advantage over them. The Indians always knew they could depend on the promises of their French allies and would not be cheated out of their lands or furs. On the other hand, English traders, generally of a low class, brought Englishmen more or less into disrepute among the Indians.

With these general remarks on the condition of the English and French Colonies, I shall now proceed to refer to some of the events that preceded the Seven Years' War. After the Treaty of Utrecht, France recognized the mistake she had made in giving up Acadia, and devoted her attention to the Island of Cape Breton, or Isle Royale, on whose south-east-



ADMIRAL SAUNDERS.

ern coast soon arose the fortifications of Louisbourg. In the course of years this fortress became a menace to English interests in Acadia and New England. In 1745 the town was taken by a force of New England volunteers, led by General Pepperrell, a discreet and able colonist, and a small English squadron under the command of Commodore, afterwards Admiral, Warren both of whom were rewarded by the Imperial Government for their distinguished services on this memorable occasion. France, however, appreciated the importance of Isle Royale, and