

that a number of Iroquois were hunting on the way, was prevented continuing his Journey which was not performed until the spring, after the Ice had broken up, when it was effected in the most successful manner possible, as you will learn by and by.

The orders the Count had received from France to commence hostilities against New England and New-York, which had declared for the Prince of Orange, afforded him considerable pleasure, and were very necessary for the country. No more time was allowed to elapse before executing them than was necessary to transmit despatches to France, and the Count resolved, shortly after, to send out three different expeditions so as to declare war against those rebels at all points at the same time, and to punish them at various places for the protection they had afforded to our enemies the Iroquois. The First party was to be organized at Montreal and to proceed towards Orange; the Second at Three Rivers and to strike a blow in New-York between Boston and Orange, and the third was to depart from Quebec and to reach the seaboard between Boston and Pentagouet, verging towards Acadia.

They all have succeeded perfectly well, and I shall communicate to you their details after I have spoken of an affair which happened at the same time we received the news of the first party from Montreal. The letters of the month of November of last year have advised you, Madam, that the Count, immediately after his arrival at Montreal, had determined to dispatch a convoy to Fort Frontenac in order to endeavor to revictual it and place it in security during the Winter; you have been informed how that post had been abandoned by order of M. de Denonville and that its garrison had arrived the day after the departure of the convoy, which was in consequence obliged to turn back.

That convoy was accompanied by four of the Indians whom the Count brought back from France with Orehaoué, one of the most considerable Chiefs of their nation. This man, whom you will often hear mentioned in the course of this letter, is one of the principal causes of the war. He was much esteemed among his people, and was induced to visit Fort Frontenac under pretence of peace and a feast of friendship, which is their manner of transacting business, and then taken prisoner with forty others of his tribe by order of M. de Denonville who sent them to France, as you are aware; and they had still been in the Galleys if the King did not think proper to send them back here with the Count, the treachery of which they were the victims being in no wise to his taste.

The disposition manifested by Orehaoué, on our arrival here,<sup>1</sup> was such as to encourage us to hope for peace with his nation, inasmuch as war was waged solely on his account; and the kind treatment he and his people experienced at the hands of the Count, since they were with him, ought to have effaced from their recollection all the pain of their slavery. That disposition appeared in the submission of a son to a father. He did nothing without consulting him, and it was of his own motion and with the Count's consent, that those four men, in company with another Indian who had come Ambassador, after the sacking of La Chine, and had offered some very insolent propositions to M. de Denonville, had set out for Onontaë, the principal town of the Iroquois, where all their business is transacted, for the purpose of conveying thither the news of Orehaoué and his people's return, and inviting all their tribe to come to welcome their Father whom they had so long missed, and to thank him for his goodness to them on his return, restoring to them a Chief whom they supposed to have been irrecoverably lost. This, Madam, was the message entrusted to these envoys.

<sup>1</sup> Count de Frontenac arrived at Quebec on the 12th October, 1689.