

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS.—

On the great American Chequer Board of two hundred years ago, the game between French and English went on continuously. The moves varied. On one side was coolness, while on the other, eager rush was the chief characteristic. The English went on slowly, but secured surely. The French ran over the board, secured pawns, made Kings, and eventually lost everything. To tell the whole of the story, would be to write a book. Let us stick to our mutton—in other words, to Fort Frontenac. In 1686, large supplies of provisions were collected there, and it was the base of operations at the eastern end of the Lake, while preparations were made to erect a Fort on the Niagara. The English, meanwhile, offered terms to the Iroquois, which were not at once accepted. But help for the French was coming from France, and in 1687, De Denonville received large reinforcements, and then called fifty Iroquois Chiefs to meet him at Fort Frontenac for Conference. They came, were seized, put in irons, sent to Quebec, and shipped to France to labor in the galleys, as the French King had ordered. How would you have felt if you had been trapped and torn from your homes, in such treacherous fashion? Just as did the Iroquois. They rose as one man, determined to avenge the gross betrayal of their fellows. To subdue them, Denonville collected an army of 2,000 regular troops, and 600 Indians, at Montreal, and on 11th June, started for Fort Frontenac, and thence proceeded by boats and canoes to the mouth of the Genesee River, on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. After an inland march, the Senecas were attacked in their village, and they would have repulsed the French,

but for the fact that the latter were saved by their Indian allies. Then Denonville set off for Niagara, and erected a wooden Fort there, garrisoning it with 100 men, under Chevalier De La Noye. No sooner had Denonville returned to Fort Frontenac, than the Iroquois attacked the new Niagara Fort, and its garrison was, by fighting and famine, eventually reduced to a force of but half a score of men. Governor Dougan, of the English colony, was carrying on an intrigue with the Iroquois, and wrote to Denonville, asserting that the Five Nations would not listen to proposals of peace, until the French restored to their homes the Indians sent to man French galleys. He supplied the Iroquois with arms and ammunition, and incited them to fresh attack upon the French. In 1688, the Iroquois assembled in great force, within two days march of Montreal, while with five hundred men they devastated the growing settlement at Frontenac. The few farm houses were destroyed by fire, cattle were killed, and the Fort itself was invested. Denonville was so cowed, that he accepted the terms proposed by Dougan, sent to France to secure the return of the Iroquois captives, and obtained permission to forward provisions to the starving garrison at Fort Frontenac. But an attack by the Hurons upon some Iroquois Chiefs, as they were returning from Montreal, so incensed the Five Nations, that in 1689, they sacked Lachine and Montreal. Men, women and children, Indian and white, were cruelly killed, farm houses and barns were burnt, property of all descriptions was destroyed, and waste and ruin marked the course of the invaders, of whom but three lost their lives. The garrison at Fort Frontenac, dismayed by this Iroquois success, and dreading the fate which had overtaken their