

warriors soon followed from other quarters, and never was seen in Canada such a large gathering of Indians from the various nations and tribes. The fires of the Great Council were lighted after preparations of the most imposing description, and the assembly opened with the usual ceremonies. After many conferences and lengthy debates, a general peace was proclaimed and finally concluded. But treaties in those days, as in our own times, were made only to be broken. The fickle and barbarous Iroquois soon found an opportunity to recommence hostilities, and their enemies were not slow to share the responsibility.

At this period the Iroquois traded with the Dutch colonists on the Hudson, as well as with the English of New England. The wars of the 17th century, so often revived between France, Holland and England, transplanted to this continent the animosities from the other side of the ocean. The friendship of the neighbouring colonists being from the very beginning of a precarious nature, such a tenacious animosity may be easily explained. Thus we always see the colonists taking up the quarrels, and on each occasion a far more bitter warfare was carried on against each other in North America, than between their respective nations in Europe. With obstinate hatred all the Indian tribes of the Five Nations, until then only secretly supplied with fire-arms and ammunition by the Dutch and English, hailed with great joy every declaration of war. They seconded the plans of the enemies of the French, and supported by such powerful allies, hostilities presented from that time a most fearful character. This horrible calamity weighed upon Canada with almost ruinous effect. It is unnecessary for us to dwell upon the details of this sad period; we can easily comprehend the injury thus inflicted on French commerce, and what a serious obstacle was occasioned to the development of the colony, which had to