

The proposition of the Iroquois proposed by them to Governor Dongan in Feb. 1688, (1) was only to remove the French from Niagara, Cataraqui and Ticonderoga, not a general plan of conquest.

Nor was the plan that of the loyal and able Dongan, as he freely avows himself while a true and active Briton " a better friend to the French King's subjects than he thinks I am ", and his view of their relations was simply that each nation should keep to its own proper territory.

Twenty years previously, the conquest of Canada had been thought of and dismissed.

By letter of Gov. John Winthrop to Secretary Arlington it appears that royal letters of 22 Feb. 1666 to the Governments of Massachusetts, Nova Scotia and Connecticut ordered the conquest of Canada, but it was " the unanimous apprehension of us all that at present there could be nothing done by these Colonies in reducing those places at or about Canada."

In 1687 we find the situation being considered. Peter Schuyler writes to Dongan, 7 Sept. 1687: *The various reports that come daily makes us consider in what posture our place is off for defence,* we know now what design the french may have, and it is certain this place must be the general Rendez-vous of the county." (2)

The Albany Convention acted independently of the usurper Leisler. They at the same time stirred

(1) P. 536.

(2) P. 482.