

1714. has little need and who become unavailable for cultivating the soil; their expenses are paid by the farmers-general, and the King might grant the colony of Canada a hundred and fifty every year, the farmers-general to take them to Rochelle, and on paying a hundred and fifty livres for each, to be released entirely in regard to them. There is not one but costs them a hundred francs a year, and every one is detained at least eighteen months, and some for ten years or more. Beyond this, all that the farmers-general can ask, is that they shall not return to France, and I will answer for that.

"If the King grants this favor, all the ships coming to Canada can be obliged to transport these hundred and fifty men, and give fifty livres for each on their arrival. In the colony they can be distributed among the settlers, to work as servants, and this for three years, after which they are to be free, but not to be at liberty to return to France; and, to enable them to be in a condition to do something for themselves, the hundred livres remaining out of the hundred and fifty paid by the farmers-general, may be put in the hands of the master, who will be required at the expiration of the three years' service, to give each man fifty crowns. The settlers would be very glad to have men on these terms; and this would insensibly give an increase of men inured to labor."¹

Ineffectual
efforts of
the English
to win over
the
Abenakis.

At the close of this letter, the Governor-General added that the English at Bos¹ were neglecting no means to win the Abénaqui nations to their interests, by making them many presents, by offering them goods at a low rate, and ministers for prayer: that the Baron de Saint Castin and the missionaries were doing wonders to divert them; but that Father de la Chasse reminded him that grace often needs the co-operation of man, and that temporal interest sometimes serves as a vehicle for faith; that it was more than ever necessary for his majesty, by some new benefit, to facilitate means for retaining in our

¹ See a Memoir like this dated Orleans in N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp 1716, and addressed to the Duke of 868-872.