

place, till about 1664, the same ignorance, the same negligence, prevailed with regard to the real interests of Canada. The monopolizing company fulfilled none of their engagements. This breach of promise, far from being punished, was, in a manner, rewarded, by a prolongation of their charter. The clamours of all Canada were disregarded at such a distance, and the deputies sent from Montreal, and other places, to represent its wretched situation, were denied access to the throne, where timid truth is never suffered to approach, but is awed into silence by threats and punishments. This behaviour, equally repugnant to humanity, private interest, and good policy, was attended with such consequences as might naturally be expected from it. The commerce of Montreal rapidly declined. The Indians, weakly supported by their allies, the inhabitants, were continually flying before their old enemies, whom they were accustomed to dread. The Iroquois, resuming their superiority, openly boasted that they should compel the strangers to quit the settlement and the country, after having seized some of their children, to replace such as they had lost of their own. The inhabitants themselves, forgotten to their mother-country, and unable either to pursue their commercial avocations, or gather in their scanty crops, without hazard of their lives, were determined to abandon a settlement so ill supported; and such was the deplorable state of the town and the colony at large, that the people were reduced to subsist upon the charities which the missionaries received from Europe.

The French ministry, at length awakened from their lethargy, by that great commotion which at that time agitated every nation, sent a large body of well disciplined troops to Canada, the majority of whom it was found necessary to station at Montreal, the inhabitants receiving them with the utmost hospitality and good will. By this means the French gradually recovered an absolute superiority over the Iroquois. Three of their nations, alarmed at their losses, made proposals for an accommodation; and the other two were so much weakened, that they were induced to accede to it in 1668. At this time Montreal first enjoyed a profound peace; which paved the way for its prosperity, and a freedom of trade contributed to secure it. The beaver trade alone continued to be monopolized. This spirit and activity occasioned an increase of traffic with the Indians, and revived the intercourse between both continents. Not a single act of hostility was committed throughout a tract of four or five hundred leagues; a circumstance, perhaps, unheard of before in North America.

But this concord could not continue among people who were always armed for the chase. The Iroquois resumed that restless disposition arising from their love of revenge and dominion. The Canadians retaliated; and the English at New-York availed themselves of the disposition of the Iroquois. Thus the war was renewed with greater fury than ever, and lasted the longer, as the English, who were lately at variance with France, on account of the deposition of James II. thought it their interest to make an alliance with the Iroquois. An English fleet, which sailed from Europe in 1690, appeared before Quebec in October, to lay siege to the place; and a strong party of Indians were directed to make an incursion upon Montreal, by the way of Lakes George and Champlain. But when the Iroquois recollected the hazard they ran in leading their allies to the conquest of those two capital fortresses, it occurred to