

their confidence was won. While the talk was going on, Sieur Rendin was tracing the lines of the Fort as directed by his leader, and when the dinner hour was past, men were set to work digging a trench and cutting down timber, for the present site of Kingston, and all the country about, were then heavily wooded. The Count made another survey of the River, while his followers were hard at work. So keenly did they labor, that the officers, the narrator says, "found difficulty in drawing the people off to rest and sleep, so as to be able to work the next morning." No sooner had the sun risen, on the 14th—and it rises pretty early in July—than the men again set to with heartiness and zeal, and the site of the Fort was nearly cleared when night closed in. On the 15th, the labors went merrily on, and although rain fell on the morning of the 16th, the afternoon witnessed a renewal of energetic action; and, again says the narrator: "The Indians were astonished to see the large clearances that had been made, some squaring timber in one place, others fetching pickets, others cutting trenches, and the different operations advanced at the same time." And now the Count was ready for more talk. His Fort was an assured thing, and he stood on safer ground. He did not wish to quarrel with his newly found friends, but knew that the surest security of peace was thorough preparation for war. So another conference was held, with the screech of the saw, the ring of the axe and the thud of the mattock as fitting accompaniments. The Count delivered a long speech, in which he dilated upon the good treatment received by the Hurons, and promised similar kindness to the Iroquois if they should prove true to the French. He advised them to learn the French language

from the Black Gods as the missionaries were styled, and offered to educate four Iroquois girls and two Iroquois boys, at the Nainville in Quebec. He advised alliance with the Hurons, and more regular intercourse with the French, and followed up his speech by further gifts. Nothing had struck the Iroquois more than the overcoats worn by the French soldiers, and twenty-five of these were the first gifts made. Now came a present of twenty-five shirts, twenty pairs of stockings, five packages of beads, and five coats, probably of bright uniform. The orators of the Hurons told of the kindness of the French to them, and sought the friendship of the Iroquois by a gift of Wampum belt. The interview soon stood adjourned until the following day, much to the satisfaction of the French, who wished for time, for while talk progressed work went on; and so far had it advanced during the Conference, that when evening came, the first pickets were set up, and one flank of the Fort was complete. On the 18th, the palaver was resumed, when the representatives of the Five Nations addressed Onontio, expressing their satisfaction with his talk, declaring that they would trade at the new station, and pledging themselves to keep peace with the Hurons. They asked Frontenac to assist them in a war against the Andostaguay, their only remaining enemies, who were strongly fortified, and had many men and canoes, and requested further time to consult with their village with regard to the children for whom Frontenac had asked. Presents were made to the Hurons, and the Count again urged the Iroquois to favorably look upon his offer to educate their children, who were to be taken, not as hostages, but for the purpose of learning the ways of the Christians. The labors of the soldiers and volunteer pro-