

1688. The Bushlopers have committed another evil greater than can be conceived; it can only be known on the spot. Their cupidity has led them to commit the most despicable acts, which have rendered us contemptible, depreciated the goods, heightened the price of the beaver skins; and the Indians, naturally proud, seeing themselves sought, become still more so. Then came the misunderstanding between Mr. de la Barre and Mr. de la Sale; it divided the French and even the Indian allies. These divisions have kept alive quarrels among these latter, which have given great pain to our missionaries. The same misunderstanding between the general and Mr. de la Sale caused the first pillage which the Iroquois made of fifteen canoes loaded with goods, which they took from the French, believing, they said, that they thus executed the orders which they had received to plunder Mr. de la Sale's people. There had, in fact, been marks given to distinguish them. This mistake occasioned the war which Mr. de la Barre made on the Iroquois. It was always a great evil, and of very dangerous consequences, to empower these barbarians to assume rights over Frenchmen." We have seen Mr. de la Sale set the example first at (Green) bay, under color of his monopoly, "and it may well be that his enemies wished Mr. de la Barre to extort from him permission to make reprisals on his canoes, without telling him they would employ Iroquois to do this, a thing which that general, in all probability, would not have permitted."

Mr. de Dénonville then returns to the Bushlopers, whose number, he said, "is such that it depopulates the country of the best men, renders them indocile, incapable of discipline, debauched, and causes their children to be brought up like savages." He maintains that it was their roving that have occasioned those of the English among your allies, whom they have allured by cheaper goods, and whom it is almost impossible to divert from trading with New York. Speaking of the Indian wars, he says,