

interference; but the strength of Bishop Laval and the Jesuit clergy, supported by the intendant Talon, was a force with which even the selfwill and courage of a Frontenac could not successfully cope. His recall, therefore, after ten turbulent and factious years of rule, was only a natural result. But his strong individuality, his marvellous courage and activity, his influence over the Indians and the scarcely less savage *coureurs de bois*, had left their impress on the country; and when seven years of misrule under two succeeding governors had brought Canada to the verge of ruin, it was felt that the sagacity and boldness of Frontenac could alone save it for France. The mishaps and troubles of this distant colony, torn by internal dissensions, and harassed from without by English and Indians, was the only thorn in the side of Louis XIV, whose dream had been to build up a new empire in the west. He turned to Frontenac as the only one who could bring glory to France and restore its all but ruined colony.¹

Frontenac, now in his seventieth year, readily undertook the task. Neither his age nor enforced idleness at a brilliant court had dimmed his courage or relaxed his ambition. William Prince of Orange was now on the throne of England, and all the resources of the French king were required at home; so that Frontenac could not hope for much assistance from that quarter. But he trusted in himself and in his own genius to restore hope and courage to Canada. He had been told by the king to forget past animosities, but the necessities of the hour on his arrival at Quebec left no time for quarrels.² It was just after the massacre at La Chine by the Iroquois, and the whole country was paralyzed with fear. The first step of Frontenac was to restore some measure of order and confidence. He next called a council of the Iroquois, whom folly and the lack of sincerity on the part of Denonville, his predecessor, had turned from friends, or at least neutrals, into relentless enemies. The first message of Frontenac to them is characteristic of the man:

"The great Onontio, whom you all know, has come back again. He does not blame you for what you have done; for he looks upon you as foolish children, and blames only the English, who are the cause of your folly, and have made you forget your obedience to a father who has always loved and never deceived you."³

But the task of appeasing the Iroquois was difficult, and one that taxed his resources to the utmost. These wily savages, skilled in

¹ Parkman: *Return of Frontenac*.

² Parkman: *Ibid*.

³ Parkman: *Ibid*.