

comply with any commands of King James, caused, it is said, in conjunction with a report that France had declared war against England, "a great fret and tumult" in the city of New York. Lieutenant-Governor Francis Nicholson, commanding Fort James, having conferred with the officers of the militia in regard to the defence of the city, it was determined that Fort James should thereafter be guarded not only by the soldiers of the garrison but also by daily details from the five companies of militia under the regimental command of Colonel Nicholas Bayard. Three days later, instructions were sent by the lieutenant-governor to the authorities of Albany "recommending them to keep the people in peace" and the militia "well exercised and equipped."

The French, having for many years regarded the reduction of the province of New York as practicable with a large and effective military force moving southward from Canada by way of Lake Champlain and Lake George, now became active in advancing such an undertaking. A communication, written in January, 1689, by Sieur Chevalier Hector de Callières Bonnevue, the governor of Montreal, to the Marquis de Seignelay, clearly defines the manner in which it seemed practicable.

"The plan is to go directly to [Fort] Orange, the most advanced town of New York, one hundred leagues<sup>1</sup> from Montreal, which I would undertake to get possession of and to proceed thence to seize Manathe [the city of New York], the capital of that colony, situated on the sea-coast; on condition of being furnished with supplies necessary for the success of the expedition.

"I demand for that only the troops at present maintained by his majesty [Louis XIV.] in Canada. \* \* \* \* These troops number thirty-five companies which, at fifty men each, ought to give seventeen hundred and fifty. \* \* \* \* I propose \* \* \* \* to select the best of them to the number of fourteen hundred, and to add to these the choice men of the militia to the number of six hundred. \* \* \* \* I propose to embark the two thousand men with the supplies necessary for their subsistence in a sufficient number of canoes and flat-boats. \* \* \* \*

"My design is to conduct them by the Richelieu River to Lake Champlain [and] as far as the carrying place, which is within three leagues of the Albany [Hudson] River that runs to [Fort] Orange.

"I shall conceal this expedition, which must be kept very secret, by saying that the king has commanded me to proceed at the head of his troops and militia to the Iroquois country to dictate peace to the Iroquois, on the condition it has pleased his majesty to grant them without the interference of the English, inasmuch as the Iroquois are his true subjects, without letting any one

<sup>1</sup> About two hundred and forty-five miles.