

France] for cod to the Great Bank [of Newfoundland], that, after having convoyed the merchantmen, to come toward the end of August into the bay of Manathe and cruise there during the month of September, as well to prevent succor from Europe, which may arrive from Europe or Boston, as to enter the harbor when on my arrival I shall give the signal agreed upon, so as to aid us in capturing the fort, which may be cannonaded from aboard the ships while I attack it on land." ¹

The Mohawk Indians and those of the four nations with which they were confederated, having heard a rumor that Sir Edmund Andros, the imprisoned governor of New England, had expressed an intention to allow the Canadians to extirpate them, began to entertain misgivings that the officers of King James were disposed to deal treacherously with them. Peter Schuyler, the mayor of Albany, on learning the apprehensions of the Iroquois, made known the fears of the Five Nations to Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson, writing him that they were "very jealous," and that if their suspicions were not soon removed they would "cause great mischief." The lieutenant-governor in answering the mayor's communication declared the allegation concerning Sir Edmund Andros's willingness to have the Iroquois exterminated by the French "utterly false," and advised the municipal authorities of Albany "to hinder the Indians going to Canada," and, in order to assure them of the continued friendship of the English Government, "to present each nation with a barrel of powder."

The knowledge of the hostile attitude of Louis XIV. of France in supporting the right of James II. to the English throne, together with the horrifying accounts given by the persecuted Huguenots of the French monarch's malignant treatment of them for clinging to the Protestant faith, seriously deepened the concern of the Protestant people of Albany, whose forebodings regarding a descent upon the city by an invading force of French from Canada became more depressing as the interval of their waiting for information respecting the progress of the revolution in England lengthened. Their fears also were heavily burdened by the fact that Major Jervis Baxter, a Roman Catholic, had command of Fort Albany, who, should he be swayed by his religion, might be disposed to serve a secret behest of Louis XIV., for the surrender of the fort to an investing force of French.

The arrival at Albany of several commissioners from Boston, on May 18, 1689, to participate in renewing a league with the Iroquois, furnished the citizens with the latest intelligence respecting political affairs in England. It was so startling in its character that some of the principal citizens declared that Major Baxter should no longer be allowed to have command of Fort Albany.

¹ Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. ix., pp. 401-408.