donment of their homes, and in exciting to a greater degree of insolence the Indians, who sometime alter, fell upon a party of French hunters, killed several, and carried others away prisoners. Peace was subsequently gained, during which the French got the permission of the natives to erect a fort at Cataroqui (Kingston), ostensibly to protect the traders and their merchandise. The Jesuits, meanwhile, availing themselves of the peace, penetrated the settlements of the Five Nations, and acquired to some degree an influence with the Onondagas. The Senecas and Cayugas were still jealous of the French, and continued to annoy their trade, which led to a complaint* from De la Barre, governor of Canada, to Governor Dongan of New York, that these savages had plundered seven canoes, and detained fourteen French traders; to which the principal Seneca sachem returned a spirited reply, and Dongan requested the French to keep their own side of the lake. This provoked an insolent letter from the French governor, in which he said: "I sent Sieur Bourbon to you to advise you of the vengeance I was about to wreak for the insult inflicted on the Christian name by the Senecas and Cayugas, and you answer me about pretensions to the possessions of lands of which neither you nor I are judges, but our two kings who have sent us, and of which there is no question at present, having no thought of conquering countries, but of making the Christian name and the French people to be respected, and in which I will spill the last drop of my blood. I have great esteem for your person, and considerable desire to preserve the honor of his Britannic Majesty's good graces, as well as those of my Lord the Duke of York; and I even believe that they will greatly appreciate my chastisement of those who insult you and capture you every day, as they have done this winter in Merlande. But if I was so unfortunate as that you desired to protect robbers, assassins and traitors, I could not distinguish their protectors from themselves. I pray you then to attach faith to the credit which I give S. de Qalv?ge, to explain every thing to you; and if the Senecas and Cayugas wish your services as their intercessor, to take security from them, not in the Indian but in the European fashion, without whih, and the honor of hearing from you, I shall attack them towards the 20th of the month of August, New Style." A plan of operations had been previously arranged under the direction of the home government, and a negotiation with the governor of New York could have no other object than to amuse and keep inactive the English forces by professions of amity, and a declaration that they were only at war with traitors and robbers, common enemies of mankind. Preliminaries being settled,§