

BOOK VI.

THE assurance of the Iroquois, in appearing in arms in sight of Three Rivers, and the boldness with which they had insulted the Chevalier de Montmagny, gave that general deep subject for thought. He rightly deemed it a duty to omit no precaution against a surprise, and put himself in a position to meet all the efforts of a nation which no longer used any disguise, and seemed bent on employing alike artifice and strength to gain the mastery of the whole country,—the more especially as the Dutch of New Netherland, if not openly declaring in their favor, would undoubtedly furnish them with aid in more than one way.

It was accordingly resolved to erect a fort at the mouth of the river which then bore their name, and is now called Sorel River, this being the route they generally took to come down into the colony. It was completed in a short time, notwithstanding all the attempts of seven hundred Iroquois to oppose it. They fell upon the workmen when they least expected it, but were repulsed with loss. The fort received the name of Richelieu, already given to the river, and a pretty strong garrison was stationed here.¹ Had the Canada Company been willing to incur a similar expense for the defence of the Huron country, those

¹ Montmagny arrived, with workmen, cannon, and soldiers, Aug. 13, 1642 : *Relat. de la Nouvelle France, 1642*, p. 250 ; *Creuxius, Hist. Canad.*, p. 351. The French, in this action, were led by Corporal du Rocher, the governor being on a vessel in the stream : *Creuxius, Hist. Canad.*, p. 51. The Indians were two hundred. See post, p. 143.