

quois were two hundred strong, all picked, determined men,¹ who counted surely on making short work of this handful of Algonquins and Hurons, whom they did not suspect of having taken the field to meet them. 1609.

They were, however, mistaken. The allies were not inferior to them in numbers, but had allowed only a part of their warriors to be seen. Both sides were as yet armed only with arrows, and those on our side based all their hopes on the fire-arms of the French; and they recommended Champlain to fire at the chiefs, whom they pointed out.² These chiefs, three in number, were distinguished by birds' feathers or tails, of a larger size than those worn by their soldiers; for all wear them as a general rule, each one arranging them according to his fancy. The Algonquins and Hurons first sallied from their intrenchments, and ran two hundred paces towards the Iroquois.³ When they came in sight of the enemy, they halted and divided into two bands, leaving the centre free to Mr. de Champlain, who came forward and put himself at their head.⁴

They engage.

His figure and arms were something new for the Iroquois, whose surprise knew no bounds, when, at the first shot of his arquebuse, in which he had put four balls, they beheld two of their chiefs fall dead, and the third dangerously wounded. At this first success the allies raised loud cries of joy, and some discharge of arrows followed—not, however, producing any great result. Champlain was about to load again, when, one of the two other Frenchmen having also brought down some Iroquois, all were

Defeat of the Iroquois.

July 30.

¹ "Who came slowly towards us with a gravity and assurance that pleased me much."—*Champlain*.

² Described.

³ Champlain makes the Iroquois come out first (p. 229), and on the next page says: "As soon as we landed, they began to run some two hundred paces," etc.

VOL. II.—2

⁴ "Marching some twenty paces ahead till I was within thirty paces of the enemy, when they perceived me and halted to regard me, and I them. As I saw them moving to fire at us, I raised my arquebuse and aimed directly at one of the three chiefs." Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 230.