

1610. did not, however, prevent his firing, as long as his powder and balls lasted ; and his own men supported him well, although one of them was wounded in the arm.

The Iro-
quois are
attacked.
Their good
defence.

The Iroquois, who were not yet accustomed to defend themselves against fire-arms, began to slacken their volleys, and sought to cover themselves from the arquebuses, which had brought several down ; but our men, who had not counted on so long a resistance, soon ran out of ammunition. Then Champlain proposed to the allies to assault the intrenchment. As they relished the advice, he put himself at their head, with his four Frenchmen, and in spite of the vigorous defence of the besieged, they soon made a pretty wide breach. At this juncture, a young man of St. Malo, named des Prairies, whom Champlain had left in his bark, came up with five or six of his comrades. This timely re-enforcement enabled the assailants to withdraw a little to rest, while the new-comers kept up a fire on the enemy.

The Indians soon renewed the assault, and the French placed themselves on their wings to support them. The Iroquois could not stand so many redoubled blows. Almost all were killed or taken. Some, in endeavoring to reach the bank of the river, were thrown in and drowned. The affair being completely ended, another party of French came up, who wished to console themselves for having had no share in the victory by sharing the booty. They seized the beaver-skins that covered the Iroquois whom they saw stretched on the ground, and the Indians were shocked at it.¹ The latter, on their part, began to wreak their usual cruelties on the prisoners, and devoured one of those who had been killed, which horrified the French. Thus these savages gloried in a disinterestedness which they were surprised not to find in our nation,

¹ Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1613), pp. 249-54. He does not say the Indians were shocked, but that they ridiculed (se moquoïët) the French for taking things from "des morts plains de sang, que les sauvages ne vouloiët prêdre la peine de despoiller."