

Soon after Mr. de Maisonneuve's return, an event occurred in the island which was regarded by all the colony as an effect of the visible protection of the Mother of God, to whom it was especially consecrated, and where all really lived a life to merit her favors. Twenty-six men were surprised and surrounded by two hundred Iroquois, who fired several volleys at them, without wounding a man, while not one of their shots failed to tell. The astonishment of the Indians was extreme. They did not think it wise to give the French time to load again, but fled in all haste.¹

1653.

Iroquois
defeated.

The governor was taking steps to prevent such surprises, when sixty Onondagas appeared in view of his fort.

a field for her design, and she embarked with him and his new company of settlers, June 20, 1653, on the St. Nicholas, of Nantes, Captain Peter le Besson. They reached Quebec, Sept. 22. She opened her school in a stable at Montreal, Nov. 25, 1657. Two years after, with other ladies whom she had induced to join her in France, she founded the congregation of Our Lady, recognized in 1669, and formally established in 1676. After seeing her order extend on every side the blessings of education, she died, January 12, 1700. See *Vie de la Sœur Bourgeoys*, 120., Montreal, 1818; *Vie de la Sœur Bourgeoys, Fondatrice de la Congregation de Notre Dame de Villemarie en Canada*, Paris, 2 vols. 80, 1852; *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu de Quebec*, p. 123; *Le Clercq, Etab.*, ii., p. 59.

¹ *Mem. de la Soc. Hist. de Montreal*, p. 134; *Relation*, 1653, p. 3; *Creuxius, Hist.*, p. 663. Evidently the action of October 14, 1652, described by Dollier de Casson. M. des Musseaux, governor of Montreal, sent out Major Lambert Closse, with a scouting party of twenty-four. Three in the van were suddenly

fired upon, and one killed. Another escaped to a wretched house, in which the rest of the party also took refuge, with a colonist. Here they held out, doing terrible execution on the enemy until their ammunition was nearly exhausted. Then Baston, a brave soldier, made his way to the fort, and brought up a re-enforcement of ten men, with two small cannon loaded with grape. By the help of these he reached Closse safely. When the Iroquois had sustained a few more deadly volleys, they fled, having, out of two hundred, lost (says de Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*, pp. 6, 7), twenty killed and fifty wounded. Mother Juchereau (*Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu de Quebec*, p. 38) gives an account of a gallant action of Major Closse, who, at the head of twenty, rescued four who were besieged in a redoubt, and in the action killed thirty-two Iroquois, losing only four. She gives no date, and it may be a fuller version of this same affair; though Mr. Ferland (*Histoire*, vol. i., p. 400) seems to identify it with an action of June 18, 1651; *Jesuit Journal*, July 30.