

1658. were in council; but after waiting for several hours to no purpose, they knocked at several doors. Some dogs, which had been left loose in the houses, replied by barking; they also perceived some poultry through the palisades; but no human being was to be seen. At last, towards evening, they broke in the doors, and their surprise knew no bounds on their discovering all the houses empty.¹

Flight of
the colony.

They were long unable to understand how the French, who had no canoes as they well knew, had been able to get off; and there is not a vision that did not enter their heads, in place of their imagining the way in which the thing really was effected. It was, in fact, the first time that boats had been used on such voyages: but even if the French had possessed canoes, it would have been impossible to use them, so covered were the rivers still with ice; and this too prevented the Iroquois from pursuing them.²

Still, Mr. Dupuys was not free from fears that they would pursue him; and he used such exertions, that in spite of head winds, which detained him quite a time on Lake Ontario, he reached Montreal in fifteen days. Joy at beholding himself delivered from so great a danger, did not so flatter that officer as to prevent his feeling that such a precipitate flight was shameful to his nation, and regretting that they had neglected to put him, by a trifling assistance, in a position to sustain a settlement of that importance, and impose laws on a people who derived their strength, and the right of insulting us, only from our weakness.³

The Iro-
quois renew
hostilities.

He found the whole island of Montreal in the greatest alarm. Nothing was to be seen on all sides but Iroquois parties, which, without openly declaring themselves ene-

¹ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettres, p. 537. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettres, p. 537. Mr. Faillon cites, for other details, d'Allet, Deuxième Memoire in

² Ib.

³ Relation de la N. F., 1658, p. 78; Œuvres d'Arnauld, xxxiv., p. 734.