

1662.

Death of  
Lambert  
Closse.

At last, two hundred Onondagas overran a good part of the colony, and in broad day attacked several settlers on the island of Montreal, while working in the fields. The major of the city sallied out with twenty-six men, well armed, to cover their retreat; but having struck to the woods to conceal his march from the enemy, he suddenly found himself between two fires. He fought all day long like a brave man, and was well supported by his men, till, overwhelmed by numbers, he perished with all his party.<sup>1</sup>

employed at and near Cape Breton. From 1648 to 1657 he was chaplain to the Ursulines of Quebec. When the Abbé Queylus was at Quebec, Mr. Vignal was won by him, and going to France in 1658 became a Sulpitian. He came out again in 1659 with Mr. Le Maitre. On the 25th of Oct., 1661, he went with some workmen to Ile-à-la Pierre (erroneously called Ile St. Pierre on the map in volume ii.), a little island in front of Montreal, now a mere rock, to get stone, but fell into a party of Oneidas and Mohawks, in ambush, and was mortally wounded. After two days' march he was killed and eaten, not far from La Prairie: *Rel. de la N. F.*, 1662, p. 5; Brigeac's Letter, *Ib.*, p. 9, 1665, p. 20; Belmont, *Hist.*, p. 11; Lalemant, *Journal*, Nov. 12, 1662; M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Lettrés Historiques*, p. 569; Faillon, *Histoire de la Colonie*, ii., p. 504; Viger, *Histoire de La Prairie*, p. 6.

<sup>1</sup> Raphael Lambert Closse was the great Indian fighter of early Canadian annals. He was born at St. Denis de Mourgues, diocese of Treves, and came out with M. Maisonneuve. He seems to have been appointed at once sergeant-major of the garrison, and to have been in constant service. He did not take up lands till 1650, when he expressly renounced all claim for previous services. In 1655 he received

authority to act as governor of the city in the absence of Mr. de Maisonneuve. On the 24th July, 1657, he married Elizabeth Moyen, a girl of fourteen, who, after seeing her parents (John Moyen, *Sieur des Granges*, and her mother, Elizabeth le Brest) massacred by the Iroquois at Ile aux Oies on Corpus Christi, 1655 (M. Marie de l'Incarn., Oct. 12, 1655), had, with her sister, been carried off a captive. Restored the same year, she was received at the Hotel-Dieu by Mlle. Mance: Faillon, ii., pp. 232, 239. On the 2d of February following, a fief of one hundred acres was conferred upon him in reward of his services. He was remarkably skilful in the use of the musket and pistol, and took readily to Indian fighting. His exploits against the Indians were numerous, but the most memorable were those of July 26, 1651, and Oct. 14, 1652. He enjoyed the universal esteem of all parties in the colony: Faillon, *Histoire de la Colonie Française*, ii., pp. 103, 126, 143, 147, 151, 387, 513; Dollier de Caisson; M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Lettre* August 10, 1662; Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel-Dieu de Quebec*, pp. 38, 9; Creuxius, *Hist. Can.*, p. 663; *Relation de la N. F.*, 1653, p. 3; 1662, pp. 4, 5. Charlevoix was misled by the last authority, which alludes, in speaking of the fight with 26 men, to a previous