

hawk canton, he found the villages entirely deserted; the children, women, and old men had been placed in safety in the woods, and all the warriors had marched against other nations, while awaiting the issue of the negotiations begun by the Oneidas. There were, nevertheless, some night skirmishes between our men and Mohawk runners, some of whom were killed and others taken: not a Frenchman was wounded; but an officer and four or five soldiers were lost on this expedition by some unexplained accident.¹

1666.

On his return, Mr. de Courcelles found the preparations for the expedition against the Oneidas and Mohawks greatly advanced. Six hundred soldiers of the Carignan regiment, a like number of Canadians, and about a hundred Indians of different nations, composed the army of Mr. de Tracy, who, in spite of his more than threescore and ten, resolved to command in person. Two field-pieces constituted all his artillery; but this was enough to force

De Tracy
marches
against
the same
canton.

¹ For de Courcelle's expedition, see *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1666, p. 6; *Le Mercier, Journal*, Jan. 9, 1666; *Dollier de Casson, Histoire du Montreal (MS.)*; *De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Am. Septent.*, ii., p. 85; *A Relation of the Governor of Canada, his March*, N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 118; *Letter of Gov. Nicolls*, *Ib.*, p. 133; *Colden's Five Nations*, edition 1727, p. 22. The expedition set out from Quebec, Jan. 9, 1666, Mr. de Courcelle in command; du Gas, his lieutenant: 300 regulars, 200 provincial volunteers. All were mounted on snow-shoes, and suffered greatly: *Relation*, 1666, p. 6. He reached Three Rivers on the 16th, and left on the 18th. On the 29th he left Fort St. Louis with 500 or 600 men (*Le Mercier, Journal*), and Fort St. Teresa next day: *Ib.* The route thence is not told. Courcelle depended on Algonquin guides, but

they disappointed him; and he came out near Schenectady, where he surprised two Indian cabins. A skirmish ensued, in which four Mohawks and six Frenchmen were killed, including Lieutenant Sieur Aiguemorte: *Perrot, Mœurs et Coutumes des Sauvages*, p. 111. Sunday was spent in conference with the Dutch commander; and towards evening he began his homeward march, on which 60 died of hunger: *Le Mercier, Journal*, March 17, 1666. His surprise at finding the country in the hands of the English doubtless disconcerted his plans. The English account says he lost eleven killed and seven wounded, and puts the Mohawk loss at three killed and six wounded: *N. Y. Doc. History*, i., p. 50. The Mohawk and Oneida braves were chiefly away, though Colden says Van Curler diverted them from following the French.