

1690. reconnoitered Schenectady, leisurely, and returned to the force, which was only a league distant. It was at first proposed to defer the attack till morning; but the excessive cold changed their plan. They resolved to march at once, and attack on arriving.<sup>1</sup>

Schenectady was almost rectangular in form, and was entered by two gates: one leading to Albany (Orange), which was only six leagues off; the other opening on the main road, where our men were. The order of attack was thus arranged: Mantet and Sainte Helène took charge of the second gate, which the Indian women had assured them was never closed, and which they, in fact, found open. D'Iberville and Repentigny moved to the left, to take possession of the first gate; but they could not find it, and rejoined Mantet: so that there was only one attack.

The place surprised and carried.

The gate selected for assault was not only open, but totally unguarded;<sup>2</sup> and, as it was night, the whole party entered, unperceived by any of the inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> The two commandants at first separated, in order to reconnoitre all points at once; and, as they had enjoined strict silence, they met again at the other end of the town, without any movement being perceived. Then a yell was raised in Indian style, and each one struck where he was. Mantet attacked a kind of fort, where he found the garrison in arms. Here the resistance was quite vigorous; but the door was at last forced, the English all put to the sword, and the fort reduced to ashes.<sup>4</sup> Few houses in the town

<sup>1</sup> De Monseignat, Relation, &c., 1689-90; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 467; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 388. De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Am. Sept., iii., 67, begins here abruptly; omitting, evidently, part.

<sup>2</sup> Entry in Mortgage Book B, Albany; N. Y. Doc. Hist., i., p. 188; Colden, History of the Five Nations (London Edition), p. 115; Smith's History of New York, 4°, p. 66, cit-

ing Col. Schuyler's letter, Feb. 15, 1689-90.

<sup>3</sup> They arrived at 11 P. M., in sight of the town, after twenty-three days' march. Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 388-9; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 467; Schuyler says on Feb. 8, O. S., after twenty-two days' march.

<sup>4</sup> De Monseignat, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 467; De la Potherie, iii., pp. 68-9.