

In the minds of the Indians this expedition fully restored the reputation of the French arms; but the joy it produced in the colony was soon dashed by one of those accidents, not to be foreseen, which deprived us of the very man, in all the world, whom it was most vitally important for us to preserve, situated as we were, and which tended to array our most faithful allies in arms against each other, at the time when we had most need of uniting them all against our enemies. Thus it happened:

1690.

Effect produced by this conquest.

Lieutenant Tilly de Beauvais, and seconded Lieutenant La Brosse—the same who had served at Schenectady—determined, with four other Frenchmen, to raise a party of Christian Iroquois, of whom the Great Mohawk assumed command. They embarked at Montreal,¹ and descended the St. Lawrence to the Sorel River. On the 26th of May, their scouts heard some musket-shots, and soon after perceived two field-cabins, containing fourteen Iroquois. These they attacked, and captured a man. From them they learned that, on the route they were keeping—and which led to an English fort, that they designed attacking—they would find a party these Indians had recently left, and which comprised more than thirty men, without reckoning women and children.

Our allies engage each other without recognizing.

This news gave great pleasure; but, when they least expected it, they fell into an ambuscade. They cut through it, however, gallantly, killed four men and two women, and took forty-two prisoners, eight of them English.² Learning that seven hundred Mohegans awaited them a day's march further on, they judged it best to retreat, not being strong enough, and being too much incumbered with their prisoners to expose themselves to the risk of so unequal a struggle. What induced them to take a dif-

Salisbury (ib., p. 193) says they killed twenty-five of the French; though Van Cortlandt, to Andros (ib., p. 194) says fifteen; Smith's History of New York, p. 66, says, killed or took, twenty-five.

¹ In canoes, on the 18th. De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amerique Septentrionale, iii., p. 81.

² English women. Relation de se qui s'est passé, 1689-90; N. Y. C. d. Doc., ix., p. 473; Canada Doc., I., iv.