

scouts. Then he divided his band into three: the first, consisting of fifteen men, had orders to attack a large fortified house; the second, comprising only eleven men, he sent to seize a stockade fort, with four bastions; the third, which he commanded in person, was intended to attack another and larger fort, mounted with artillery.¹

1690.

All this was carried out with a skill and bravery which astonished the English; they, at first, showed a pretty bold front; but they could not stand the first fire of the assailants: the bravest were cut to pieces, and the rest, to the number of fifty-four, were made prisoners of war. It cost the victors only one Frenchman, who had his thigh broken, and died the next day. Twenty-seven houses were reduced to ashes, and two thousand head of cattle perished in the stables, which were fired.² Sementels was only six leagues from quite a large town in New England, called Pescadouët,³ which was able to send out a force sufficient to surround Hertel, and cut off his retreat. In fact, on the evening of the same day, two Indians came to warn him that two hundred men were advancing to attack him. Expecting this, he had taken his measures to defeat those of the enemy. He arranged his men in fighting order, on

Falls, is now Berwick, N. H. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 471; Williamson's Maine, i., p. 618; De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 76, calls it "Semenfals," and Le Clercq (ii., p. 394), "Sementals"; and I had always considered "Sementels" a French corruption of Salmon Falls, like "Kaskebé," for Casco Bay; "Merrimitin," for Merry Meeting; "Képan," for Cape Ann; yet Maurault, Histoire des Abénakis, p. 200, n., gives it as an Indian name, and says the place was formerly so called from the Abénaki Senimenal, "stone beads," from the quantity of pebbles, at that point, on the Piscataqua. Mather, however,

gives "Newichawannick" as the Indian name. Book vii., p. 73.

¹ One piece of cannon. De Monseignat, Relation de ce s'est passé; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 471; De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Amérique Sept. iii., p. 77.

² De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 77, says seven houses; but de Monseignat, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 471, says twenty-seven.

³ Charlevoix, in his Errata, says "Pescadoué." This is equivalent to Piscataway. It is now Portsmouth, N. H. According to Maurault, Pescadoué means a "darksome place."