

1690. mounted, and lacked neither ammunition nor provisions.

Siege of
Kaskebe
and several
other forts.

The ensuing night, four Indians and two Frenchmen proceeded to lay an ambuscade quite near the fort, and an Englishman, falling into it at daybreak, was slain.¹ The Indians at once raised their cry; and, about noon,² fifty of the garrison advanced in good order toward the spot from which the cries seemed to come. They were almost upon it, before they perceived anything; but our men, seeing them approach, poured in a volley at ten paces' distance; then, without giving them time to recover, rushed on them, sword and tomahawk in hand, and so well availed themselves of the disorder occasioned by these two sudden attacks, that only four, and they wounded, succeeded in retiring within the fort.³

The English
abandon
four forts.

There were, near Casco Bay, four other smaller forts, which opened on the assailants, compelling them to draw off a little, after having one Indian killed, and a Frenchman wounded. In the evening, Mr. de Portneuf sent to summon the Governor of Casco, who replied that he was determined to hold out till death. Portneuf was somewhat at a loss. He had gone too far to recoil with honor; yet Frontenac's orders forbade him to attack any fortified place, and his commission authorized him only to ravage the fields; but he found them stripped, and the settlers on their guard.

Moreover, he had been informed of the capture of Corlar (Schenectady); while Hertel, who had just joined him, had shared in the success at Sementels, and it galled him

¹ Robert Greason. Davis's Declaration, Mass. Hist. Coll., i., p. 104-5.

² De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 79, say thirty; and this is confirmed by Davis's Declaration, and by Williamson, Hist. Maine, i., p. 620, who say they were commanded by Lieut. Thaddeus Clark.

³ De la Potherie, Histoire de

l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 79. Williamson, History of Maine, i., p. 620, says Clark, and thirteen fell at the first fire; but in a note, on p. 622, he brings the same matter in again as a massacre, after the surrender. Gov. Bradstreet, in a letter to Leisler, May 30, 1690, O. S., makes the party sallying out, twenty-six. O'Callaghan's Doc. Hist., ii., p. 146.