

They set out¹ May 22, and, the next day,² discovered two Indian canoes at a place, called Les Chats. D'Hosta and de Louvigny, concluding that they were not alone, sent thirty men in three canoes, and sixty by land, to surround the enemy on all sides. The first party fell into an ambuscade; and, at the outset, received a heavy fire, almost at the muzzle: the Iroquois, whom they could not see, picking their men, and aiming surely. In de la Gemberaye's canoe, the first that attempted to land, there were, after the first volley, only two men left unwounded.³

1690.

Louvigny was in despair to see his men thus slaughtered, without his being able to help them; for Perrot, whom he had express orders to obey on the way, would not permit him to advance, for fear of risking the presents in his charge. At last, however, he yielded to the entreaties of the Commandant and Mr. d'Hosta. They at once put themselves at the head of fifty or sixty men, and rushed upon the enemy; the attack was so sudden and so well-timed, that thirty Iroquois were killed, several wounded, and some taken; the rest with difficulty reached their canoes, and escaped. This party consisted of thirteen canoes, and its defeat produced a good effect.⁴

Defeat of
the
Iroquois.

Messrs. d'Hosta and de la Gemberaye⁵ having soon after

¹ From the upper end of Montreal Island. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 470.

² June 2. (Ib.) De la Potherie says they halted below Les Chats, twelve days after starting (iii., p. 75).

³ Four were killed. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 471; De la Potherie, iii., 75. Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 32, in a brief notice, says they lost five men, and mentions only ten Iroquois as killed. Le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 386, gives the whole loss in the action as seven.

⁴ Four prisoners were taken: two men and two women. Only four of the thirteen canoes escaped. N. Y.

Col. Doc., ix., p. 471; De la Potherie, iii., p. 76.

⁵ Christopher Dufrost de Lajemmerais was a Breton gentleman from Medréac, in the diocese of St. Malo, where the family still subsists. The fief, which gave them name, seems to be, properly, La Gesmerais. He was, at first, midshipman at Rochefort, and came over, in 1687, as ensign. He rose, by his valor, to a lieutenancy, and was made commandant of Fort Frontenac in 1697. He died in 1708. By his wife, Mary Renée de Varennes, grand-daughter of Peter Boucher, of Three Rivers, he had six children, the most distin-