

1690. all the rest of the country, as far as the capital, was under the orders of the Chevalier de la Motte, also a seconded captain. The Chevalier de Clermont, on reaching the mouth of the river, learned that some boys, while guarding cattle, had been carried off by the Iroquois: he pursued them, rescued the boys, except one, whom the savages had killed at once, because he could not keep up with them.¹

New hostilities on their part.

At the same time, another party of Iroquois, having descended on the Island of Montreal by Des Prairies River, was discovered by a settler, who gave notice to the Sieur Colombet, a seconded lieutenant. That officer at once collected twenty-five men, and hastened in pursuit of the enemy, who advanced half-way to meet him. The Iroquois, being much superior in numbers, charged the French with great resolution. Colombet was left on the field, with some of his men; but the Iroquois lost twenty-five.² Some days before, another troop of these Indians had carried off fifteen or sixteen women and children, near Bekancourt River. They were pursued; but the only effect was that the savages, to facilitate their escape, butchered all their prisoners.³

In fine, there was no security anywhere; and a considerable part of the land could not be sowed, producing a very great famine the next year throughout the colony.

Arrival of a great convoy from Michillimackinac.

In the very height of these alarms, on the 18th of August, the Sieur de la Chassaigne,⁴ who commanded at Fort La

¹ De Monseignat, Relation, &c.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 474. This Indian party comprised one Englishman from Albany, who was killed, and his commission taken.

² De Monseignat, Relation, &c.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 474; De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 83; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 399. The French lost twelve men. The action took place at Pointe au Tremble.

³ The river was then called Puante.

It empties opposite Three Rivers. De Monseignat, Relation, &c.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 474; De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 83.

⁴ John Bouillet, Sieur de la Chassaigne, captain of a company in the marine service, was from Paray, in the County of Charolais. (Ferland, ii., p. 210; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 478.) In 1709 he was sent to the relief of Chambly, (Ib., 834.) In 1727 he was Governor of Three