

the afternoon, De Longueil, accompanied by Maricourt, his brother, recently arrived from Hudson's Bay, passed in a canoe along the English fleet, which he wished to reconnoitre. Some boats gave him chase, but he reached land, and by a sharp fire of musketry, compelled his pursuers to make for their ships.<sup>1</sup>

1690.

The next day, an English bark full of soldiers approached the St. Charles River to reconnoitre a place for debarkation between Beauport and that river; but it grounded quite far from the shore. It nevertheless kept up quite a brisk fire, but it was well answered. Some of our brave fellows rushed to attack the bark, but they could not reach it without going waist deep in water, and the plan had to be abandoned.<sup>2</sup>

The Count de Frontenac's main object was to induce the enemy to cross the St. Charles, and they could in fact attack the city effectually only on that side. His reason was that this river being fordable only at low tide, he could, when they had once crossed it, without much risk, advance to engage them, and they, once routed, could never rally, while obliged to march knee-deep in mud to reach their boats. On the other hand, if the French crossed the river to meet them, they could do so only under equal disadvantage. This reasoning could be retorted, by remarking that if the enemy after crossing the river drove our men successfully, they could, being opposite the weakest part of the city, enter it with the fugitives; but the general reckoned too much on the valor of his troops to fear this disaster, moreover he was resolved not to strip the fortifications of soldiers, and to be always at hand to support his men. It was soon clear that he reasoned well.

Frontenac's  
plan for de-  
fending  
Quebec.

On the eighteenth, at noon, almost all the boats were

<sup>1</sup> De Monseignat, Relation. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 486. Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 428. ii., p. 430. Major Walley, Journal in the Expedition against Canada, (Hutchinson, i., p. 471) designates it as "the vessel Capt. Ephraim Savage

<sup>2</sup> Tuesday, 17th. De Monseignat, Relation. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 486. was in," and Cotton Mather (Mag., Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, B'k II., p. 49), adds, "with 60 men."