

1690.

The contest was, however, too unequal on the side of the French, to be longer maintained, and agreeably to the concerted plan, they began to fall back slowly, keeping up a constant fire till they concentrated near a stockaded house on an eminence. Here, protected by the palisades, they made a stand, pouring in so deadly a fire as to check the whole English army. Then the English began to use their field-pieces, but an answer was given by the battery at the Little River Gate; moreover, the English fired so badly that they did not wound a single person. Nor was the musketry fire more effective; it killed only a young scholar¹ and wounded only one Indian.

This fire lasted till night, when the English retired, swearing against the French, who fought, they said, behind hedges and bushes, like Indians.² What finally induced them to retreat was their large number of dead and wounded. They retired at first in tolerable order; but the retreat soon became a perfect flight, when they heard the tocsin sounded by the Cathedral. They imagined they were going to have the Governor-General and all the regulars upon them, and their only thought was to reach their camp with all possible speed. Yet the tocsin was merely a stratagem of the *Sieur Dupuys*, Lieutenant-particulier of Quebec, who had been an officer before becoming a magistrate, and who had voluntarily assumed, during the siege, the duties of Adjutant, which he discharged very ably.³

While this was taking place near the Little River, the two hostile vessels that were above Quebec, fell down with the tide to resume their position in the line: as they

¹ This young man was Peter Maufils, student in philosophy, at Quebec, wounded in the arm. Nov. 15, died 16. Abeille, i., No. 41. The students at the Industrial school at St. Joachim, to the number of 40, all volunteered, Juchereau, *Hist. de l'Hotel Dieu*, p. 331. *L'Abeille*, i., No. 41.

² De Monseignat, *Relation*, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 488-9, Frontenac's Dispatch. *Ib.*, p. 460. Account sent by the *Fleur de Mai*. *Ib.*, p. 458. *Le Clercq*, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 439. *De la Potherie*, *Hist. de l'Amérique Sept.*, iii., p. 120.

³ *De la Potherie*, *Histoire de l'Amérique Sept.*, iii., p. 120.