

1690.

Frontenac bestowed great praise on all who took part in the last action. He permitted Carré and his troop to carry home two pieces of artillery, to be an eternal monument of the exploit they had achieved. It was admitted that the most experienced could not have manœvered better than this farmer did,¹ and the English even paid him all the justice he deserved. But nothing disconcerted Admiral Phibs more than to see all the regulars and colonial militia assembled at Quebec. He had calculated on a diversion in the direction of Montreal, which should have kept a good portion of these troops engaged, and his hopes were based on this.

The failure
of a diver-
sion in the
direction of
Montreal
saves
Quebec.

The information given to the Count de Frontenac by the Iroquois la Plaque, that a large number of Indians were encamped on the shores of Lake St. Sacrement was but too well founded. It was indeed only part of a corps of three thousand men, English, Iroquois and Mohegans, who were to attack the Government of Montreal, while the English fleet besieged Quebec. There was every reason to fear that Canada, already enfeebled by the severe losses it had sustained the preceding years, would sink under two such powerful efforts, had they been well concerted; but Heaven intervened by one of those unhopèd for operations, in which it is impossible not to recognize that Providence which watches over the preservation of states, and which can derive the aid it destines for them, from sources whence it would least naturally be expected.²

The English and Mohegans, on their march to join the Iroquois, were attacked by small-pox, and many still bore the marks when they reached the rendezvous. The Iroquois, already thrown into very bad humor by the delay which this sickness caused, were seized at this spectacle with fear that the disease would spread to them, and they reproached their allies with coming to poison them.

¹ Frontenac to the Minister, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 460, and Account sent by the Fleur de Mai, p. 458.

² Ante, p. 143.