

In fact many were soon attacked with the same disease, and no less than three hundred died of it. This was enough to induce all the rest to abandon so fatal a spot, and withdraw from those who had brought the contagion. Thus the army melted away.¹ 1690.

It is even added on documents that I do not guarantee, that the English had sent on in advance closed chests, containing poisoned clothes, and that their design was to let the French plunder them; but the chests having been opened by the Indians, all whom curiosity led to attire themselves in these clothes, died of it. What perhaps gave credit to these popular rumors, was that the wound of which Mr. de Sainte Helene died, not having been deemed serious, some gave out that he had been struck by a poisoned ball; yet it is certain that many others of the French wounded in the various actions with the English troops who landed at Beauport, recovered from their wounds, and that the surgeon who attended Sainte Helene, complained that he had been unwilling to follow the regime which he prescribed.

It is also said, and with apparently greater likelihood, that what finally embroiled the English and Iroquois, was

¹ Frontenac to the Minister, Nov. 12, 1690. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 460. May, 1691. *Ib.*, p. 495. De Monseignat, says 500 died. *Ib.*, p. 490. De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amérique Sept.*, iii., p. 124-6. Mgr. de Laval, in his letter of Nov. 20, 1690, reports that the Indians broke with the English because the latter refused to mingle with the Indians in their military movements, keeping the Indians apart; that the Indians withdrew, and on their march homeward plundered the *caches* of the English, on which the small-pox broke out among them, carrying off 300 Senecas and 100 Onondagas, and that all the Iroquois believed the things poisoned on purpose to de-

stroy them. De la Potherie, *Hist. de l'A. S.*, iii., p. 126-7 and the *Relation*, 1690-1. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 513-4, gives the force as 900 Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas, 470 Mohawks, Oneidas and Mohegans. The English refused to embark in the Iroquois canoes. They give the loss 300 Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas, 90 Mohawks and Oneidas, 5 or 600 English. Milet, in a letter from Oneida, June, 1691, *Relation de sa Captivité*, p. 46, says small-pox stopped the first, or Sorel Expedition, and scattered the second, or Lake George one, which was accompanied by 400 English, whom the Iroquois ordered back. See N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 733, 753. *Ante*, p. 145.