

1690.

that the former would not embark in the canoes of the latter, structures of elm bark, quite poorly made and very low at the side, that on this refusal the Iroquois called them cowards, loaded them with bitter reproaches, and on their homeward march, destroyed all the grain and killed all the cattle around Albany.¹ For my own part, I am convinced that in the motives for the withdrawal of these Indians, there entered no little of that policy, of which we shall see hereafter well-defined effects. This policy consists in an unwillingness on their part, that either of the two European nations between whom their territory lies should acquire too great a superiority over the other, satisfied that they should soon be the victims.

Be these circumstances as they may, and they are not equally attested, men were not well assured at Montreal of the danger they had been in, till long after the dispersion of this large force; and to all appearances Admiral Phibs was ignorant of the failure of that movement, when he arrived before Quebec, and never suspected it till he learned that all was quiet at Montreal. This suspicion, which was very well founded, and the failure of the various attempts which he had made to penetrate into Quebec by the river St. Charles, at last determined him to raise the siege. In the three actions which we have described he lost nearly six hundred men; it has even been considered as a fact that he had not a single cannon-ball left; that the last day, his guns were loaded with only wretched scraps of iron, and that all his other military supplies were as completely exhausted.²

The siege
raised.

The twenty-third, on the report which spread of the speedy departure of the fleet, Captains d'Orvilliers and de Subercase, with one hundred men, threw themselves into Isle Orleans, and the Sieur de Villieu was ordered to descend by the little channel to Cape Tourmente, in order to prevent any landing of the English. In the evening the

¹ De la Potherie, iii., p. 127. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 513.

² Chalmers' Political Annals (N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., 1868), p. 58.