

1691.

Many other less numerous bands spread over the colony from Repentigny to the Richelieu Islands, everywhere committing great ravages, because the troops and the militia could not keep in the field for want of provisions. At last the Chevalier de Vaudreuil formed a corps of a hundred or a hundred and twenty volunteers, officers, soldiers and Canadians, who began by going from house to house to obtain provisions. As soon as they had collected enough for some days, they joined the Sieur de la Mine, captain, who had started from Montreal some time before Mr. de Vaudreuil and had discovered a party of Oneidas undefended in an abandoned house at Saint Sulpice.

Action at  
St. Sulpice,  
or Repen-  
tigny.

The Chevalier de Vaudreuil, to whom this was reported, without hesitation marched in that direction. He had with him, among other brave men, the Chevalier de Crisasy, Le Moyne de Bienville, and Oureouharé, whom they began to suspect of being in correspondence with his nation, but who in the rest of this campaign, completely dispelled all doubt. Our men, on approaching the house, perceived fifteen Oneidas lying out doors on the grass, not suspecting even that there were any French in the field; they rushed on these and killed all before they knew what was going on. Three others rushed out of the house at the cry of the dying; one was instantly brought down, two others escaped to the wood badly wounded. Then those still left in the house prepared to defend it, and Bienville, going too near a window, was killed on the spot by a musket ball.<sup>1</sup> The loss of this officer, who was well known to the Iroquois, roused the courage of those savages, and but for the extraordinary efforts of de la Mine, de Crisasy and Oureouharé, one hundred and twenty Frenchmen were on the point of failing before a dozen Iroquois, posted in a wretched house. At last the Cheva-

<sup>1</sup> Francis Le Moyne, first Sieur de Bienville, fifth son of M. de Longueuil, was born at Montreal, May 10, 1666, and was ensign in the marine corps. Daniel, *Nos Gloires Nationales*, i., p. 47. After his death his name was given to one of his brothers, then quite young, and now Governor of Louisiana. *Charlevoix*.