

1691.

gone to England, and was to return with a fleet much more powerful than the last for a new attempt. Finally they were informed that very great preparations were making at Albany to attack the island of Montreal. Phibs' voyage and plans were real ; but his exertions were useless ; to all appearance they had not sufficient confidence in his ability to entrust him with a second armament, the more especially as he was no longer in a position to bear the expense.¹

That preparing in New York was not strong enough to act successfully alone ; for it was composed of only five hundred men,² one hundred and eighty English, the rest Mohawks and Mohegans. Yet it gave rise to a very sharp action ; but that Providence which protected New France appeared in a very sensible manner. The army which the preceding year was to fall on the head of the colony, having been dispersed by the disunion which arose, they were able to meet the English fleet with all the forces of the colony, and this year the fleet in its turn failing, Montreal had means to resist all the efforts which the English and their allies could make to penetrate to that island.

The enemy
approach
Montreal.

In fact, the Chevalier de Callières no sooner learned that the enemy were approaching, than he without difficulty collected from seven to eight hundred men whom he encamped at la Prairie de la Magdeleine. He then sent out several scouting parties, and a few days after, one of the sons of the Sieur Hertel, to whom he had assigned three Algonquins and an Iroquois of the Mountain to watch the march of the confederates, brought in word, that he had seen a canoe in Sorel river, a little above the Chambly ra-

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 540.

² Some memoirs even reduce it to 280 men. *Charlevoix*. This was Major Peter Schuyler's Expedition, as to which, see his Report, N. Y. Col. Doc., iii., p. 800 ; he there makes his force 120 Christians. 80 Mo-

hawks, 66 River Indians : total, 266. The Relation, 1691-2, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 520, says 200 English and a great number of Mohegans and Mohawks. The *Histoire de l'Eau de Vie en Canada*, p. 180, says 140 English and 80 Mohegans.