

1691.

mation. At that moment a volley of musketry opened upon them, mortally wounding him and the Sieur d'Escairac and killing Mr. d'Hosta on the spot.<sup>1</sup>

The second battalion came up at the moment, led by Mr. de la Chassaigne, and rushed headlong on the enemy, who, after a very vigorous resistance, seeing themselves on the point of having the whole French army upon them, retreated in very good order. Mr. de St. Cyrque was bleeding to death, the artery in the leg being cut, but nothing could induce him to retire within the fort till he saw the enemy turn their backs; and he thus by his intrepidity atoned for his fault in allowing himself to be surprised. He fell dead some moments after, at the very entrance of the fort, and d'Escairac died the next day.<sup>2</sup>

Men were quite surprised to see them allow the enemy to complete his retreat tranquilly, and with an air which was rather that of conquerors than vanquished. Moreover, we had killed only five or six of their men, wounded about thirty and taken a single grenadier at the moment when he was preparing to throw grenades into the fort. Our loss was greater, even without counting the three officers already named. Moreover, they carried off the scalps of several of the French, and uttered loud cries, as though they wished to insult our troops.

This inaction resulted from there being no one to command, or perhaps, because every one wished to command; but it did not last. The enemy had nearly entered a wood, when they perceived a small French detachment, commanded by the Sieur Domergue, following closely; they formed an ambuscade into which these brave fellows

Exploit of  
Mr. de  
Valrenes.

<sup>1</sup> Benac, Relation, Canada Doc. II., vi., p. 77. Register of la Prairie, 1691. Daniel, Nos Gloires, ii., p. 282.

<sup>2</sup> Relation, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 522. De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 140. Belmont, Histoire du Canada, p. 34. St. Cyrque is said to have served all

his life in the best regiments in France, and to have commanded a battalion in Sicily. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 522. Champigny to the minister, Aug. 13, 1691. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 504, describes the action briefly, and there is quite a detailed account in the Register of La Prairie.