

1691. by this conduct: accused some years afterwards of defalcation, the remembrance of this proof of his fidelity and disinterestedness obtained his discharge without an investigation.

Attempt of
the
Iroquois to
surprise
Sault St.
Louis.

The Iroquois had constantly kept up their hostilities; two Indian women, prisoners in their hands, having escaped early in November, warned the Chevalier de Callières that two parties, of three hundred and fifty men each, were on the march to surprise Sault St. Louis. On this intelligence the Governor sent part of the troops he had at Montreal, to that town, distributed another portion in the neighboring forts, and committed the defence of the city to its inhabitants. A few days after, one of the two parties, coming by way of Lake Ontario, appeared in sight of the Sault, but did not venture out of the woods; the troops marched against these Indians, and for two days there was some sharp skirmishing, with about equal loss on both sides. The enemy, who had counted on a surprise, then retired.

Various
hostilities.

This first party comprised Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas; the second, composed of Mohawks, Mohegans, and Oneidas, had taken its route by Lake Champlain; but some having deserted, and the chiefs learning of the retreat of the first, deemed it inexpedient to go any further. There were, nevertheless, forty or fifty men who, detached and in small bands, overran the French settlements, carrying off some settlers, who, in spite of orders, had strayed off.

Towards the end of the month, thirty-four Mohawks near the Mountain of Chambly surprised some Indians of Sault St. Louis, who were hunting there without any precaution, killed four, took eight, some of whom escaped, and hastened to notify the village of what had just happened. Fifty braves immediately gave chase to the enemy, and overtook them near Lake Champlain. The latter, seeing their approach, took post behind some rocks;

¹ The Marquis de Crisasi commanded. De la Potherie, iii., p. 167.