

1692.

bravest chiefs, were to join them and spend the whole pleasant season there, so as to stop all the French who endeavored to go to or from Michillimackinac.

The
Iroquois
blockade
the great
river [of
the
Ottawas.]

As a great convoy from all the North and West, was daily expected, all felt the absolute necessity of sending a good escort to meet it; but de Callières could not strip his district of soldiers, requiring all his troops to protect the people engaged in agricultural labors. He accordingly notified the Count de Frontenac of what he had just heard. The General, convinced that the defeat of fifty Senecas at Tonihata had broken up the designs of the Iroquois, ordered him to dispatch at once, St. Michel with forty Canadian voyageurs to carry his orders to Michillimackinac and to give him an escort of three well armed canoes till he got beyond the Chaudiere Falls.¹

The Chevalier de Callières obeyed; the escort conducted the Canadians to the designated spot without meeting a single Iroquois; but a few days after St. Michel perceiving trails, and two Iroquois, apparently scouts, had no doubt but that Black Kettle was at hand with all his force, and returned to Montreal. He had but just landed there, when de Frontenac, arriving from Quebec, sent him off again with thirty Frenchmen, and as many Indians. The General ordered Lieutenant Tilly de St. Pierre to follow, taking the Rivière du Lievre, which empties into the Ottawa, five leagues below the Chaudiere Falls, and he gave that officer a duplicate of the order to de Louvigny carried by St. Michel.

His precaution was fortunate. St. Michel arrived at the Portage des Chats,² the place where he had turned back on his first attempt, and again saw two scouts, and a great number of canoes just launching. Deeming it imprudent to expose himself to too unequal a contest, he, for the second time, took up his route for Montreal. Three days after reaching there, sixty Indians from the inland, loaded with furs, arrived by way of Rivière du Lievre, announcing that they had met de St. Pierre, beyond all danger. They

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 535. ² In Onslow Township. ³ Tête de Boules.