

traded their furs, and asked an escort to reach the spot where they were again to take the by-ways.

1692.

*St. Michel offered to accompany them, and his offer was accepted. An escort of thirty men was assigned to him, commanded by Lieutenant de la Gemeraye who had under him la Fresniere, eldest son of the Sieur Hertel, and another of his brothers, both ensigns. This detachment reached the Long Rapid on the great river (Ottawa,) where it was necessary to make a portage; but while one part of the men was getting up the empty canoes, and the other marching along the bank to cover them, a volley from unseen hands drove off the Indians who formed the second party, and killed or wounded several of the French.

Defeat of a
French
Indian
party.

The Iroquois immediately issuing from their ambuscade, rushed furiously on our surviving men, and in the confusion caused by so sudden and unexpected an attack, those who sprang to the canoes overset them, so that the enemy had easy work with men fighting at once against them and against the current which was sweeping them away. La Gemeraye, the two Hertels and St. Michel, nevertheless defended themselves with a valor that would have saved them had not the Indians abandoned them; for it was afterwards ascertained, that Black Kettle had with him only one hundred and forty men and about sixty women and children.

But these officers having soon lost their best men, had no alternative but to embark and retreat with all expedition. Unfortunately, the canoe into which St. Michel and the two Hertels sprang, capsized, and they were all three taken. La Gemeraye and some soldiers were so fortunate as to escape and reach Montreal.¹ There news had just arrived of the escape of the Chevalier d'Eau from Manhattan, and of the continuation of the troubles between the Dutch and English in New York.

For some time no more was heard of the Iroquois, and the Count de Frontenac, who had asked the court for troops, his own not having been recruited for several

¹ De la Potherie, iii., p. 157-8. La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 237.