

1693.

ary, all embarked at Montreal.¹ Nothing had been neglected to ensure the success of this expedition, and so completely had they reckoned on the entire destruction of the Mohawk canton, that they had recommended to the commandants to give quarter to no man able to bear arms, to put them all to the point of the sword, without retaining any as prisoners, and to bring away the women and children to people the two Christian towns of their nation.

Success of
the expedi-
tion.

But more than one experiment should have taught our generals, that these projects were not as easily executed as they imagined. On the 16th of February, the army arrived in the Mohawk canton undiscovered. This canton seems then to have been composed of only three towns, each having a fort. La Noue² attacked the first, and captured it without much resistance; he burned the palisades, cabins, and all the provisions. Mantet and Courtemanche had as easy a time with the second, which was only a quarter of a league from the first, and as several prisoners were taken in each town, Courtemanche was appointed to guard them.³

The third, and larger town,⁴ cost them more. La Noue and Mantet arrived there on the night of the 18th, and found them chanting the war song. There were forty-eight Mohawks, who, unconscious of what was going on in their neighborhood, were preparing to join a party of fifty Oneidas, and then reinforce a body of two hundred English, who were preparing to make an irruption into the colony. The French attacked them without hesitation, and the Mohawks, although surprised, defended themselves with great valor; twenty, with some women, were killed at the first onset, and two hundred and fifty prisoners taken.⁵

¹ They moved that way from La Prairie. *Ib.*, 558. De la P., iii., p. 170.

² La Noue, lieut. in 1692. *N. Y. Col. Doc.* ix. p. 539, died 1734. *Ib.* x., 1042.

³ De la Potherie, *Histoire* iii., p. 171. *Relation*, &c., 1692-3. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 558. *Narrative of Military Occur.* *Ib.*, pp. 550-1.

⁴ Tionondaga (*N. Y. Col. Doc.*, iv. p. 16, *Beyard and Lodowick*, p. 20,)

or Teonontiogen, (see ante vol. ii., p. 146, n.) near Fort Hunter.

⁵ *Ib.*, p. 558; the *Narrative*, &c. pp. 550-1, makes only 80 fighting men in the three towns, of whom the French killed 18 or 20, and took the rest. De la Potherie does not state loss, but says 30 French Indians fell in the assault, or died of intoxication. *Hist de l'A. S.*, iii. 171.