

their route together, and anchored off Quebec on the 12th of October;¹ they left it on the 20th, and on the 27th reached Montreal. There they found Mr. de Dénouville and Mr. de Champigny in the greatest perplexity that can be expressed, and this was the cause.

On the 25th of August,² at the time when the French deemed themselves in the greatest security, fifteen hundred Iroquois made a descent before day on the quarter of La Chine,³ which is on the south side of the island, about three leagues above the city. They found all the people asleep, and began by massacring the men; then they set fire to the houses.⁴ By this means, all who had remained in them fell into the hands of these Indians, and experienced whatever fury can suggest to savages. They carried their fury even to excesses of which they had not been deemed capable. They opened the bodies of pregnant women, to tear out the fruit they bore; they put children alive on the spit, and forced the mothers to turn and roast them.⁵ They invented a number of other unheard-of tortures; and thus, in less than an hour, two hundred persons, of every age and both sexes, perished in the most frightful tortures.⁶

This done, the enemy approached within a league of the city, everywhere committing the same ravages and perpetrating the same cruelties; and, when weary of these

1689.

Irruption
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into the
Island of
Montreal.
Cruelties
perpetrated
by them.

¹ Frontenac (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 435), La Hontan (Voyages, i., p. 198), say October 15, at 8 P. M. Louis at night, during a severe hail storm.

² The Observations on the State of Affairs (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 431) says August 5, N. S. Champigny's Letter, November 16 (ib., p. 435) says the same. Colden (History of the Five Nations, p. 115) and Smith (History of New York, p. 57) give July 26, O. S.

³ For the origin of this place, see Vol. III., ante, p. 122. Belmont (Histoire du Canada, p. 29) says 1400 Iroquois. They passed Lake St.

⁴ Remy, Curé of La Chine, says only two houses, M. Bourgerly's and one where he said mass, escaped.

⁵ Frontenac's despatch, November 15. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 435.

⁶ Belmont (Histoire du Canada, p. 30), writing on the spot, gives a list, but no exact number of killed. Frontenac's despatch, November 12, says 200 killed, 120 carried off. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 435. De Callieres (ib., p. 429) says 150 killed.