

1689. one clause of Mr. de Dénonville's letter to the Sieur de Valrennes that commandant was authorized to wait till the end of November¹ before evacuating Catarocony, the new governor hoped to be in time to countermand the order, and send a convoy sufficient to enable him to hold out in the fort.² He accordingly fitted out 25 canoes with all celerity, added a detachment³ which his predecessor had collected to facilitate the retreat of the garrison, and gave them an escort of three hundred men, French and Indians, chiefly Iroquois of Sault St. Louis and of the Mountain, who, seeing themselves no longer safe in their villages, had taken refuge in Montreal.

He makes great preparations to revictual it.

It is evacuated.

He had another view, also, in sending out this large detachment; he had brought back from France the Iroquois who had been condemned to the galleys, and wished to send some of them to their cantons, there to announce the return of all the others, and notify the cantons to send for them. But, with all the expedition that he could employ, his convoy could not be got ready till the 6th of November;⁴ and he had not returned to Montreal two hours, after conducting it in person as far as Lachine, before the Sieur de Valrennes arrived with his garrison, composed of forty-five men, having lost six, drowned while shooting a rapid.⁵

He had burned or thrown into the water all the stores and ammunition that could encumber his march, sunk in the harbor three barks which he had left, with their anchors and iron cannon, transported the bronze pieces as far as Lake St. Francis, where he had concealed them; he had mined the bastions, walls of the fort, and towers, and put in several places slow matches, lighted at one end;⁶ and as some three or four hours after their departure he

¹ Canada Doc., II., v., p. 35.

² Canada Doc., II., v., p. 44.

³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 437; Canada Doc., II., v., p. 44.

⁴ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 437; Canada Doc., II., v., p. 45.

⁵ Canada Doc., II., v., p. 45.

⁶ Canada Doc., II., v., p. 45; La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 195.