

1696. dians formed the rear, under the command of the Chevalier de Vaudreuil.¹

Its march.

The army advanced in this order, which was maintained during the march, except that the corps which formed the van one day, became rear guard the next. On the 19th they reached Catarocouy, where they halted till the 26th, waiting for 400 Ottawas promised by Mr. de la Motte Cadillac, but who did not make their appearance. Some French voyageurs were to accompany them, who likewise failed to come, not daring apparently to risk themselves alone on routes which they believed to be beset by the enemy's war parties. They were moreover obliged to leave at Catarocouy twenty-six sick, most of them injured while ascending the rapids.²

On the 28th the army reached the mouth of the river Chouguen.³ As this river is narrow and rapid, the General, before entering, sent fifty scouts ashore on each side. That day he could not make more than a league and a half. The next day the army was divided into two corps, to push on more rapidly and occupy both banks of the river by land and water. Mr. de Frontenac took the left, with Mr. de Vaudreuil, the four battalions of regulars and one of militia. Messrs de Callieres and de Ramezai, with all the rest, held the right. In the evening they united after a march of three leagues, and halted at the foot of a fall, ten or twelve feet high, and extending across the river.⁴

It is in great risk, and saved by de Callieres' ability.

The greater part of the army had unfortunately got caught in the current of this fall, and a backward movement would have been dangerous. The Governor of Montreal undertook to remedy this disorder. He made all his men jump

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 649, 650, De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Am. Sept., p. 156, 271-2. The Relation des Affaires du Canada, 1696, p. 7, makes the whole force about 2200 men. Joseph Dubeau, N. Y. Col. Doc. iv, p. 241, 1600 French, 460 Indians.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 650.

³ The Relation and de la Potherie call it the River of the Onondagas. The Oswego River is a large and rapid stream, carrying to Lake Ontario, the waters of eight lakes, and draining 4500 square miles.

⁴ Oswego Falls, at Fulton, are about twenty feet high.