

and being troubled with lameness, he had taken the precaution to bring a horse, which he mounted. The Chevalier de Vaudrenil led the right, which was less exposed. The General was between the two, borne in an armchair, surrounded by his household and volunteers, with the artillery before him. The road was very difficult, and they did not reach the village till late in the evening, when it was found almost all in ashes, and two Frenchmen, who had long been prisoners, recently butchered.<sup>1</sup>

It occasioned great surprise that the enemy had ruined their fort, where they might have made a long defence, as was evident from the vestiges that remained. Nor could men conceive how the English, who had built it, could have abandoned it so, without making any effort to assist their allies. This fort was a rectangle with four bastions, surrounded by a double palisade flanked by redoubts with a fence formed of poles forty or fifty feet high. Fifteen hundred Iroquois, as many English, some pieces of artillery, which could easily be brought from New York, the vicinity of the woods so well adapted for ambuscades, and the facility of the Rigolet for defence, were enough to put the Count de Frontenac in danger of receiving a repulse, or compel him to return without effecting anything.<sup>2</sup>

On the morning of the 5th, two women and a child from the Village on the Mountain, who had been for six years captives at Onondaga, escaped and came into camp, confirming the intelligence that six days before, all unable to bear arms had taken refuge a league distant. After dinner the same day, a French soldier who had been taken with Father Milet, arrived from Oneida, bearing a belt from the chiefs of that canton in order to solicit peace. The General at once sent him back with orders to say to those whose envoy he was, that he would indeed receive their

1696.  
Negligence  
of the  
enemy.

The  
Oneidas  
ask peace.

<sup>1</sup> Relation, &c., 1695-6, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 653, and de la Potherie are silent as to the two Frenchmen.

<sup>2</sup> Gov. Fletcher on the 7th Aug., 1696, O. S., proposed sending troops to cover the flight of the Indians, but his council voted it down. O'Callaghan's Doc., Hist. i., p. 217.