

1696.

submission, but on condition, that they should come and settle in the colony; that moreover they should not expect to delude him by sham negotiations, and that he was about to dispatch troops to learn their final answer.¹

Mr. de
Vaudreuil
marches to
Onéida.

In fact the next day the Chevalier de Vaudreuil set out for that canton at the head of six or seven hundred men.² He had orders to cut down the corn, burn the village, receive six chiefs as hostages, and in case they made the least resistance to put all to the sword whom he could reach. On the 6th a young Frenchman, seven years a prisoner at Onondaga, escaped and gave information of several caches of grain and goods, which the enemy had no time to carry off. Having seized these they began to cut the grain and ravage the country, as they continued to do for the next two days.³

Fortitude
of an old
man burn-
ed by our
Indians.

On the 8th an Onondaga, said to be nearly a centenarian, was captured in the woods, having been unable or unwilling to flee with the rest; for he seems to have expected death with the same intrepidity as those ancient Senators of Rome when that city was taken by the Gauls. He was abandoned to the Indians, who, without regard to his advanced age, wreaked on him the rage caused by the flight of the rest. Never perhaps did man experience greater barbarity or display greater firmness and greatness of soul.

It was undoubtedly a singular spectacle to behold more than four hundred men, furiously assailing a decrepit old man, from whom by no torture they could extort a sigh,

¹ Relation, &c. 1695-6, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 653-4. The Relation des Affaires du Canada, 1696, p. 9, says that the Christian woman, who saved Milet, came and offered to go to Sault Saint Louis with 80 Oneidas, that Frontenac agreed, but that Vaudreuil's troops ravaged the place before terms were concluded.

² The Relation des Affaires du Canada, 1696, p. 9, says 700 men, including 300 Indians.

³ Relation, &c., 1695-6, N. Y. Col.

Doc., ix., p. 654-5. De la Potherie, p. 280-1. The Oneidas fled to Albany, N. Y. Doc. Hist., i., p. 217. The French do not seem to have destroyed any of the towns, except one Oneida castle. Sanonguirese, the Mohawk, (ib. p. 222,) in speaking of fire, alludes to the previous invasion of his canton: and Dackash-hata, the Seneca, p. 223, alludes probably to Denonville's times, in speaking of two castles lost.