

1706.

peace was signed, unbound him, and begged him to go and tell the Commandant that they had no designs on the French, and that he besought him to stop firing on them.

A Recollect
Father
killed by
the
Ottawas.

As that religious was about entering the fort, some flying Miamis overtook him, and a volley of musketry was fired upon them by Ottawas who perceived them. Father Constantin was struck and fell dead on the spot. A French soldier returning from the Huron village was also killed in the same manner and by the same mischance.¹ Bourgmont then closed the gates of the fort, and kept up a fire on the Ottawas. Thirty of those Indians were killed, either by the French cannon, or by the fire directed against them by the Miamis and Hurons on all sides.

There was every reason to infer that this disorder would cease only by the destruction of one of the two parties, who seemed envenomed against each other, and hearkened only to their fury; but at a moment when it was least expected, the Ottawas retired to their village, the other Indians did the same on their side, and calm was everywhere restored, as often happens in storms that come up at sea, making it appear one moment all on fire, and dying away when least expected.

Embarrass-
ment of de
Vaudreuil.

When this news reached Quebec, the Marquis de Vaudreuil found himself in a position of great difficulty, which was increased by an Iroquois deputation, whom he received at the same time. The deputies declared that the Cantons had resolved to make war on the Ottawas; and that after what had just occurred, they had no doubt he would abandon to them such a perfidious tribe, and they added that they had already imparted their design to the English.

La Motte Cadillac had started to return to Detroit²

¹ Nicholas Benedict Constantin (de Chasle), a Recollect, is said to have arrived July 1, 1696. He was the first clergyman at Detroit, and his Register still exists. He was killed June 6, 1706. I do not find the account here followed by Charle-

voix: but see Cadillac's account in Sheldon's Michigan, p. 219. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 810. Rameau, Notes Historiques sur la Colonie Canadienne de Detroit, p. 13.

² He reached Detroit in August, 1706.