

1707.

Gallant
conduct of
de
Subercase.

The moment he perceived the English fleet, de Subercase had also notified the colonists to meet him ; but the nearest could not reach him till the evening of the 7th. As they came in they were made to file off, some to the right, some to the left, to go and meet the enemy and retard their march by skirmishing in the woods ; and this had all the success that could be anticipated. On the 8th, almost all the colonists having come to the fort, de Subercase reinforced the detachment sent out to harass the English ; but he warned them all not to get engaged so that they could not easily reach the fort in case they were hard pressed.

The
English
everywhere
defeated.

They were indeed, but did not retreat till they had killed many of the enemy. The body of five hundred was the first to open a passage, and the Governor sent canoes and batteaux to embark those who retired before them. He then made them deploy to join the others who were opposed to the larger body. This corps was commanded by Denys de la Ronde, a Canadian gentleman, brother of Mr. de Bonaventure, and ensign on a man-of-war. He soon followed in person, after taking measures to arrest the five hundred English at the passage of the river.

On the afternoon of the same day, there was quite a sharp engagement, in which de Subercase had his horse killed under him. Yet he lost only one man killed and one wounded. The English loss was greater ;¹ but their immense superiority forced the Governor to retreat ; he did so in good order and unpursued. For two days the enemy lay inactive : he then advanced an eighth of a league and prepared to attack the fort. As the garrison was insufficient to defend both the fort and the neighboring houses, Subercase set fire to all the buildings that he could not defend, and in which the besiegers might take post.

The next night (June 10-11) the trench was opened,² the

¹ Hutchinson says they had only three wounded, p. 151. decided that the enemy's disciplined garrison in a strong fort, was more

² According to Hutchinson, ii., p. 151, a council of war (May 13 O. S.) than a match for our raw undisciplined troops. The Deplorable State