

French being unable to prevent it. The next day the Governor sent out eighty colonists and Indians, who, taking both sides of the river, formed an ambuscade in the woods, and brought to a complete halt, four hundred of the English sent out to kill the cattle. The Baron de St. Castin even advanced with six Canibas in sight of the enemy, killed six men, rejoined his troop and charged the four hundred English with such vigor as to send them back in great disorder to their camp.¹

1707.

They open
the
trenches
before
Port Royal

Early on the 16th great activity was perceived in the trenches, and the Governor suspected that the besiegers were forming some project for the next night. In fact, towards ten o'clock at night, as he had just made the rounds, he was informed that a dull noise like men marching could be heard. He recommended strict silence, which told the enemy they were on the alert; but this did not prevent their opening the attack, although at too long range. They fired briskly on the batteries of the fort, and under cover of this fire pushed up four or five hundred men to attack the breaches, which they supposed in much worse condition than they really were.

They had even counted on a great desertion among the garrison, some soldiers having already set the example;² but they were mistaken. On the other hand, the guns of the fort, which were very well handled, made them abandon the design of giving the assault, and the troops who had advanced for the purpose, unable to stand the constant fire on them, fell back. But between eleven and twelve at night, the Governor saw that the fort was invested on all sides; that the enemy were posted in the ravines and valleys, surrounding the place; that they were even intrenched, and sheltered from artillery.

This troubled him indeed; but he kept up such a bold front, as to intimidate the English in their turn, and ap-

of New England, p. 35, says that they never carried ashore a mortar or a fieldpiece, never threw up a shovelful of earth.

¹ Appleton, according to Hutchin-

son, ii., p. 151, had only two killed, and the French retreated.

² This is confirmed by The Deplorable State of New England, p. 34.