

1707. parently suspecting a mine, they durst not approach the fort. They endeavored to set fire to a frigate and some barks which lay under the guns of the fort, but finding the resistance too great, they skulked behind some houses that had been left standing, regained their entrenchments, and before daylight returned to their first camp.

They raise  
the siege  
and retire.

They embarked next day as soon as the tide permitted,<sup>1</sup> leaving eighty of their men found dead in various places, besides several afterwards discovered near their camp. They had burnt all the houses below the fort and some of those above, carrying off all the cattle, though most of them were retaken. Port Royal owed its safety chiefly to sixty Canadians who entered it twelve hours before the English fleet anchored in the basin. The inhabitants, who for the last three years had received scarcely any relief from France, were generally quite ill-disposed, and the Governor informed the minister, that but for the presence of the Baron de St. Castin, he could not have answered for the result.<sup>2</sup>

He added in his letter, that the position of the Indians of his district, especially the Micmaks, was no better than that of the colonists; that they were all naked, as the Canibas and Malecites would be, if they did not trade with the Mohegans, or rather through the Mohegans with the English, who gave them a crown a pound for beaver, and received their goods at a very low rate.<sup>3</sup> Thus our enemies supplied the wants of our most faithful allies, whom we left destitute of actual necessaries, while they were daily exposing their lives for our service; Religion alone kept them in our interest. This is a fact of public notoriety, and I do not see what can be brought up against it by those who maintain that the Indians never sincerely em-

<sup>1</sup> The place was never summoned, and discontent broke out among the troops when it was ascertained that the fort, if taken, was to be held, as this would require them to stay and garrison it. Deplorable State of New England, p. 35.

<sup>2</sup> The report of de Subercase is not in the Collections of Documents copied for New York or for Canada.

<sup>3</sup> See Goutin to Pontchartrain, Dec. 29, 1708. Canada Doc., III. ii., 832, "Received" should be "Sold."