

1707.

small vessels, so as to run them past the fort under cover of the darkness of the night.¹

On this information he gave orders to light fires along the river as long as the tide was rising, and this precaution prevented the artillery from passing. On the other hand, the detachment, seeing its advanced guard defeated, durst not advance any further, but returned to camp, which no one left on the 24th on account of the constant alarms raised by the garrison of the fort.²

The next day the English were shelled out of their camp, and took post opposite the fort;³ but there Subercase gave them still less repose, seeing that they wished to plant batteries of cannon and mortars there. On the 26th they again decamped, and took up a position half a league lower down; but the next day the Governor sent out a detachment which killed three sentinels and obliged them to decamp for the third time. They took post out of reach of our shells; but some small parties were again sent out, which harassed them incessantly.

On the 29th they seemed engaged only in intrenching; but on the 30th they all re-embarked about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴ De Subercase suspected that this was in order to make an attempt on the other side of the river, and he called in all who were beyond it. In fact, on the 31st at sunrise, the English troops landed under cover of the guns of the fleet and took up their march as soon as they landed.

Before them was a wooded point where the Baron de St. Castin lay in ambush with 150 men; he let them come within pistol-shot, and then gave them three successive volleys with great order. The English stood them with an intrepidity that St. Castin had not expected, and seemed resolved to force a passage at any cost; but they halted

¹ The Gazette says six were killed and two taken; one of the latter was a pilot, who gave information.

² Wainwright, in a letter cited by Hutchinson, ii., p. 154, says the French kept up a fire all the 13th

O. S. (24th N. S.) and that nine of Capt. Dimmock's men and one Mansfield, were surrounded and killed.

³ Gazette; in Diereville, Voyage, p. 4.

⁴ The Gazette says the 31st.