

Various incidents well nigh defeated the expedition, and delayed the march of the warriors. At last, on the 26th of July, they started; but des Chaillons and Rouville, on reaching the St. Francis, learned that the Hurons had turned back, because one of their men had been accidentally killed, apparently while hunting, the rest believing, from this, that their expedition would be disastrous. The Iroquois, whom la Perrière was conducting by way of Lake Champlain, soon followed this example, under the pretext that some of them were sick, and that the malady might easily spread through the whole force.

1708.

The Iroquois and Hurons abandon the French.

De Vaudreuil, to whom the commandants wrote communicating this desertion, and asking his orders, replied that even if the Algonquins and the Abénaquis of Bekancourt should also abandon them, they should nevertheless keep on and make a dash at some isolated place rather than return without doing something. Des Chaillons imparted this letter to the Indians, who swore that they would follow wherever he might lead them. They accordingly set out to the number of two hundred, and after marching one hundred and fifty leagues by impracticable roads, reached Lake Nikisipique,¹ but found no Abénaquis there from the Acadian border, those Indians having been obliged to turn their arms elsewhere.

The Abénaquis not at the rendezvous.

They then resolved to march against a village called Hewreuil (Haverhill), composed of twenty-five or thirty well-built houses, with a fort in which the Governor resided. This fort had a garrison of thirty soldiers, and there were at least ten in each house. These troops had but just arrived in the place, having been sent by the Governor of New England, who, on hearing of the march of the

Capture of an English town.

p. 85, mentions a rendezvous at Oneyade, which another, p. 86, says was at the head of Otter Creek.

¹ This is Lake Winnipiseogee. See Carte de la Partie Orientale de la N. F. Maurault, Histoire des Abnakis, p. 328, defines the name, Win-

nipiseogee, Lake where they cross on trees. For other definitions see Historical Magazine, I. p. 246. Mr. Trumbull, (Composition of Indian Geographical Names, p. 32, makes it signify Good Water Discharge. See Jouveney, p. 233.