

They took this course without hesitation; each one threw down his stock of provisions and almost all his baggage, and without losing time with fire-arms, at once rushed to close quarters. The English, taken aback by this sudden attack from men whom they supposed they had thrown into confusion, were routed themselves, and could not rally. So that except ten or twelve who escaped by flight, all were killed or taken.

1708.

It is forced.

Nescambiouit,¹ who had returned from France the year before, always fought near the commandants; performing wonders with a sabre presented to him by the King. He received a musket-ball in the foot. In the two actions we had eighteen men wounded, three Indians and five Frenchmen killed, among the last, two young officers of great promise, Hertel de Chambly, Rouville's brother, and Vercheres. During the last combat several of the prisoners taken at the attack on Hewreuil (Haverhill) escaped.²

All the rest praised highly the kind treatment shown them by their captors during the retreat, which was effected without accident after the encounter just mentioned, and various incidents related of some of the officers and volunteers, were more honorable to them than the signal proofs they had given of their bravery. I was one of the first to learn them, because I was at Montreal, at the very port, when the party landed there about the middle of September. Great praise was given especially to the Sieur Dupuys, son of the Lieutenant Particulier of Que-

Noble
conduct
of some
officers.

¹ According to Maurault, Hist. des Abénakis, (p. 330.) Naskanbiwit means, "He who is so important and raised so high by his merit, that thought cannot reach his greatness." Penhallow, (p. 49.) calls him Assacambuit, says he boasted in Paris of having killed 150 of the English with his own hand, was knighted by Louis XIV., had a pension of eight livres a day, but was so cruel that he killed one of his own people, and stabbed another, for which he had to fly from his tribe, and never re-

turned. Whence Penhallow derived this, we know not. Prejudice, here as elsewhere, probably supplied ideas which he gives as facts.

² Hutchinson and Penhallow call it a brush that lasted an hour, and say the French left nine dead. For Hertel de Chambly, see Daniel, Une Page de Notre Histoire, p. 470. Nos Gloires, i., p. 286. Vercheres was a brother of Mlle. Mary Magdalen de Vercheres, who so gallantly held a fort against the Indians in Oct. 1696. Hist. Mag. iv. p. 131.