

1710.

De
Vaudreuil
encamps at
Chambly.

On his return to Montreal, towards the middle of September, intelligence was brought by an Iroquois, just come from the enemy's camp, that twenty-five hundred men were on the march to go and build a new fort at the extremity of Lake St. Sacrement, and that six hundred had been detached to occupy a post on Lake Champlain,¹ from which they could in two days reach Chambly. He immediately dispatched this Indian to Quebec, where de Vaudreuil was, and that general, who saw no further danger of being besieged in his capital, embarked on the spot for Montreal, collected a considerable force of regulars and militia, with whom he took post at Chambly,² and remained there some time without hearing anything of the enemy.³

He then sent out two detachments of fifty men each under des Chaillons and de Montigny, to reconnoitre the enemy. These two officers approached very near the intrenchments; Montigny even, with two Indians, went to count and measure the canoes, and some Abénaquis of his party having advanced between the two largest forts, tomahawked two Englishmen going from one to the other.⁴

The enemy
retire.

Some time after, news came that the enemy had burnt their canoes, and laid all his forts in ashes and retired in great confusion, cursing Vesche, the projector of such a disastrous expedition.⁵ It was in fact most fatal to the English; but the French did not so soon know either the full extent of the loss which the English sustained on this occasion, or the real cause.

The rumor at first was that they were compelled to retreat by the fear of soon having de Vaudreuil upon them,

projected by Samuel Vetch, was to be commanded by Francis Nicholson, ex-Lieutenant-Gov. of New York. New York raised 487 men, besides the independent companies, and sent them to Albany, June 27. Thence they proceeded to Wood Creek, and built three forts with many block-houses and store-houses. They had 600 Indians, and maintained their families at Albany. The expedition

cost New York above £20,000. Smith, Hist. of New York, p. 120.

¹ Crown Point.

² Fort Pontchartrain de Chambly, Arrêts et Ordon., ii, p. 158.

³ Vaudreuil to Pontchartrain, Nov. 14, 1709. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 833.

⁴ Same to same, May 1, 1710. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 842.

⁵ *Ib.*, p. 839, 842, 845, 847.