

1710. without their help, they thought only of means to destroy it, and resorted to the following. The army was encamped on the banks of a little river; the Iroquois, who spent almost all the time hunting, threw into it, just above the camp, all the skins of the animals they flayed, and the water was thus soon all corrupted. The English, unsuspecting of this treachery, continued to drink this water, and it carried off so many, that Father de Mareuil, and two officers who went to Orange (Albany) to conduct him to Canada, observing the graves where the dead were buried, estimated the number at over a thousand.¹

They cause
the
destruction
of the
English
army.

Why the
English
fleet did not
reach
Quebec.

It is certain that this mortality, the cause of which was not known to the English till long after, compelled the army to leave so fatal a spot, where they saw well that they could not avoid utter defeat if the French should come and attack them. They returned to Manhatte, (New York,) to learn, on arriving, that the English vessels intended to besiege Quebec had not reached Boston at all, having been sent to Lisbon, where the ill success of the Portuguese arms on the frontiers of Castile, early in this campaign, inspired fears that the King of Portugal would be forced to make terms with Spain, unless he was promptly relieved.²

The
Iroquois
send
deputies to
de
Vaudreuil.

At last, during the ensuing winter, the Onondagas sent deputies to Vaudreuil to ask to be received into his favor. They first assured him that they had had no design of injuring the French; but gave no explanation as to the means they had adopted to neutralize the vast preparations of the English. They explained that the war had not been undertaken by the unanimous consent even of the

¹ Hutchinson says, (ii., p. 161.) that he had a letter dated New York, Nov. 7, 1709, stating that many of the soldiers who were at the lake, died as if they had been poisoned. The Sieurs de la Perrière and Dupuy were sent to effect the exchange. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 842. See Penhallow, p. 57. For New York's part in the expedition see Smith, pp. 119-120. N. Y. Col.

Doc., v. p. 164. The discontent was great, and the L't-Gov. of New York declined to attend the Congress of Governors at Rehoboth, R. I., in October. Hist. Magazine, iii., pp. 89, 123; while Col. Schuyler was sent to England with five Mohawk sachems. Smith, 120-1. N. Y. Col. Doc., v. p. 165. N. Y. Col. MSS. Eng. p. 363.

² See note ante, (p. 171.)