

1710.

That same night, fifty settlers and seven or eight soldiers deserted, and the next day all the remaining settlers presented a petition to the Governor, requesting him to consider the state they were in; that they had been so long on foot, night and day, that they were ready to sink under this excessive fatigue. In reality their ill-will and the general discontent against de Subercase had discouraged them, and they were afraid that no quarter would be shown them, if they did not surrender before all the batteries were planted and ready to annihilate the fort.

Murmurs
and
desertions
among the
besieged.

The Governor replied that he would examine their request, but perceiving the soldiers to be equally alarmed, and most of them openly threatening to desert, he called a council of war¹ on the 11th. It was there unanimously voted that they must think only of obtaining a favorable capitulation. Ensign de la Perelle was at once dispatched to the English General. That officer first asked permission to send all the women out of the fort, but this was apparently refused.²

The
governor
surrenders
the fort.

La Perelle, it is certain, remained in the English camp, and Nicholson sent one of his officers³ to de Subercase, who informed him that he wished to treat directly with his General. On this statement Nicholson sent Colonel Redin⁴ to the fort with full power. The Governor received him on the glacis, took him to his quarters, and was long closeted with him.⁴ On coming forth he told his officers in a loud tone that all was arranged, and the next day Colonel Redin and Captain Mathieu, who had acted as hos-

¹ De Gannes denies that Subercase held a council of war or convened the officers.

² De Gannes says de la Perelle was detained for not halting at a certain spot, and for beating his drum up to the lines, against the laws of war. Hutchinson also, (ii., p. 165) says "the officer not observing the rules of war, was put under arrest."

This was Sept. 29, O. S., Oct. 10, N. S., and on Oct. 1, the English batteries opened. Penhallow, pp. 60, 1.

³ Col. Redding.

⁴ Penhallow and Hutchinson say Col. Tailer and Capt. Abercrombie were sent with a summons to surrender; see Nicholson's summons in Canada Doc. III. ii., p. 877, Mem. des Commissaires, ii., p. 642.