

1712. scrupulous towards them; but they spoke in vain. The Commandant replied, that it became neither him nor them to imitate their example, and he sent back the two deputies, telling them that he had no other reply to make them but that already made. The wretched Foxes had now no hope except of being able to escape under cover of bad weather; and in fact, after nineteen days siege, a heavy rain-storm having scattered the besiegers, they seized the opportunity and escaped by night.¹

The
besieged
escape and
are
pursued.

This was discovered at daybreak, and a pursuit begun.² They were found quite well intrenched four leagues off, on a peninsula³ running out into little Lake St. Clair, and as their entrenchments were scarcely visible, the assailants, approaching with too little precaution, had at first more than twenty men killed or wounded. They had to begin a new siege, which lasted four days, and would have been even longer, if the French Commandant had not brought up two field-pieces.

They are
almost all
massacred.

The besieged at last surrendered at discretion, and almost all with arms in their hands were pitilessly slaughtered on the spot. The rest,⁴ to the number of one hundred and fifty, without counting women and children, were reduced to slavery and divided among the confederate nations, who did not keep them long, but massacred nearly all before they parted. The loss of the allies amounted to sixty men killed or wounded;⁵ the Hurons, among whom there were twenty-five Christian Iroquois, distinguished themselves beyond all the rest, and also lost more men; but this expedition cost the enemy more than two thousand souls.⁶

Du Buisson acquired here great honor by his firmness and disinterested course, which led him to strip himself of

¹ *Ib.* pp. 330-1.

² De Vincennes joined in the pursuit with some of the French.

³ Presqu'Isle, near Lake St. Clair, opposite Hog Island. L. C. Draper, Wisconsin Hist. Coll., v., p. 78.

⁴ One hundred were bound, but escaped. *Ib.* p. 332.

⁵ This is the Indian loss; the French had one killed, five or six wounded. *Ib.* p. 333.

⁶ Du Buisson says 1000.