

1713-22. aged, while the rest were hunting; they sent a detachment of two hundred men.¹ Fortunately, two young men, who were hunting on the seashore, perceived them entering the Kennebec; suspecting their design, they ran overland to warn Father Rasle to be on his guard, and the old people to fly to the woods.

The missionary, as he believed duty required, began by consuming the consecrated hosts, which were in his chapel, and putting the sacred vessels and altar vestments in a secure place, after which he followed his Indians, whom he had sent on into the woods. That very evening the English reached the village, and not finding the one they sought, followed him next day in his retreat. They were within gun-shot when perceived, and the missionary was actually vested to say mass, if some accounts are to be believed.

His only alternative was to strike deeper into the woods; but as he had not had time to take his snowshoes, and did not walk easily, having had a leg and thigh broken some years before, he could do nothing but hide behind a tree. The English followed several paths trodden by the Indians, and were not eight paces from the tree which covered their prey, when, as though repulsed by an unseen hand, they halted and turned back to the village, where they plundered the church and the missionary's house. They thus left him without provisions, and he suffered much from want of all things, till the Jesuits at Quebec, informed of the extremity to

¹ Vaudreuil and Begon to Minister, 17 Oct., 1722. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 910. *Rale*, Letter in *Lettres Edif.* (Kip, p. 15.) This expedition, known as Capt. Harmon's, reached Norridgewock Jan. 15, 1722, carried off his *Abnaki Dictionary*, now in Harvard College, and published in 1833 in the *Memoirs of the American Academy*, as well as his strong box, now in the Massachusetts Historical Society. Penhallow, p. 87, mentions

an expedition of Harmon about this time, to the Kennebec, but makes no allusion to *Rale's* village; he mentions another expedition which set out Feb. 10, 1723, p. 94. Penhallow himself, an actor in the war, acknowledges that many, while blaming the Indian cruelties, admitted the injustice done them by neglecting to fulfill what had been promised at the various treaties, p. 88. See Hutchinson, ii., p. 244.