

1713-22. party having surprised sixteen Indians on an island, where they had fallen asleep, fired on them, killing five and wounding as many.

Father Rasle refuses to retire to Quebec.

War being thus rekindled between the two nations, the inhabitants of Narantsoak urged Father Rasle to retire for a time to Quebec, telling him, that if he fell into the hands of the English, the least that would befall him would be to drag out the rest of his days in a harsh captivity. He replied that he did not fear the threats of those who hated him solely for his zeal for the salvation of his flock, and he added these words of the Apostle, (Acts, xx., 24 :) "Neither do I count my life more precious than myself, so that I may consummate my course, and the ministry of the Word which I received from the Lord Jesus."

He is killed by the English.

It resulted as the Indians had foreseen; the English seemed to make war only to get rid of one man, to whom alone they ascribed the opposition manifested by the Abénaquis to a submission to them. At last, despairing of taking him by surprise, they resolved to employ force. On the 23d of August, 1724, eleven hundred men,<sup>2</sup> part English and part Indians, marched to Narantsoak. The dense undergrowth by which the village was surrounded, and the want of precaution on the part of the inhabitants against an unforeseen attack, prevented their being seen till the moment when they poured in a general volley of musketry, riddling all the cabins.

There were then only fifty warriors in the town. These flew to arms, and ran in confusion, not to defend the place against an enemy already within it, but to cover the flight of the women, aged and children, and to give them time to gain the river side, not yet occupied by the English. Warned of the danger in which his neophytes were by the cries and tumult, Father Rasle went fearlessly to meet the assailants, in the hope of drawing all their attention on

<sup>1</sup> There are suspicious translations of two letters found at Norridgewalk and ascribed to Rale in Mass. Hist. Coll., II. viii., pp. 245, 266.

<sup>2</sup> The Lettres Edifiantes say, a small force of 1100 men, which leads us to infer it to be a misprint for 100.