

want of provisions made it impossible for him to obey, the harvest having been very poor. He so informed the Governor General, who ordered him to send only fifty men towards the parts where the Iroquois usually gathered for the winter hunt. He instantly prepared to obey this order, and the detachment commanded was ready to march, when tidings came that changed their plans.

1697.

On the 11th of January an Indian of Sault St. Louis,¹ a native of Oneida, and sent to that canton to exhort the inhabitants to come and settle among us, arrived at Montreal. On being asked in what mood he left his countrymen, he replied, that sixty of them, divided into two parties, were coming, hunting by the way, to keep their promise made to the Governor General. He added that all the other Iroquois had gone hunting toward the country of the Andastes, and on this second report the force was disbanded.²

Some individuals, however, took the field in the direction of New-York. One Dubos, commanding one of these parties, after a long and brave fight with some Mohegans and Mohawks, whom he handled severely, fell into an ambuscade near Albany. Ten out of sixteen, who composed the party, were killed on the spot, Dubos and three others wounded, taken, and conveyed to Albany; the remaining two were never seen again.³ A second band, of seven or eight Frenchmen, met with not much better fortune. It fell in with some Indians of the Mountain, who, taking them for English, attacked them. Two were killed before the mistake was perceived, but Totathiron, the great chief of the Mountain, was also killed, and this was a great loss for the colony.⁴

The French
sustain
some
reverses.

¹ Tatabissere, Relation, 1696-7, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 665. Thathakouchere, De la Potherie, iii., p. 285.

² Relation &c. 1696-7, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 665.

³ Dubeau, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 666: Dubau, de la Potherie, iii., p. 287. He died of his wounds at Albany. Fletcher to Shrewsbury, 9 Nov. 1696; *Ib.*, iv., p. 233. His examin-

ation in N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 241, gives his name Joseph de Boake. He left Montreal Sept. 24, with 21 French and one Indian. When near Kinderhook thirteen of them were attacked; he was wounded, and with two others surrendered to people of Schodac. A party pursued the rest and cut them off.

⁴ Relation &c., 1696-7, N. Y. Col.