

1697. during the whole campaign. In fact they reckoned the Senecas killed or taken by them since spring at over a hundred.

Exploit of a
Huron
chief.

A very vigorous and well conducted action had just come off, in which the Indians of these four nations had taken part. The Iroquois having taken the field to join the Baron, as agreed upon with him, four of their scouts fell in with the Rat, the famous Huron chief, heretofore frequently mentioned. He was at the head of a hundred and fifty warriors and had landed at the head of the lake. Of the four Iroquois who discovered him, two were killed on the spot, and the other two were taken. From them he learned that their people were not far off, that they numbered two hundred and fifty; but had canoes only for sixty at most.

On this intelligence, the Rat advanced with his whole force towards the spot where he had been told the enemy were encamped; when he came within gun-shot, he feigned to be surprised and alarmed at their number, and pretended flight. At once sixty Iroquois sprang to their canoes to give chase; the Rat pushed out from land, and plied his paddles till he was two leagues from shore. There he stopped and drew up, received without firing the first Iroquois volley, which killed only two of his men, then, without giving them time to reload, he dashed on them so furiously that all their canoes were riddled or stove in. Thirty-seven were killed,¹ fourteen taken, the rest drowned. Among them were five of the highest chiefs in the nation.

The Rat was then sincerely attached to the French cause, and it was he alone who had prevented all the Hurons of Michilimackinac from following the Baron to New York. At the same time he rendered a great service to the Miamis, by putting them on their guard against the Baron, for he had discovered that that traitor, under pretence of forming an alliance with those Indians, thought only of betraying them. He came to Montreal with de la Motte Cadillac, and obtained the highest place in the Governor-General's favor; but Indians do not live on smoke,