

or arrived at the river of the Hiroquois, to commence the Fort on the site that he had selected. Axes were wielded in the great forest, trees were hewn down and cut in pieces, the stumps were pulled out; the spot was indicated, and the first Mass said there. After the benediction, the cannons thundered, and a salvo of musketry did honor to this first beginning under the auspices of our great King and the favor of his Eminence. Seven days after the first stroke had been given, while all were engaged in erecting a palisade for protection against the enemy, a band of three hundred Hiroquois stole like thieves through the forest and gave plenty of occupation. Had not Monsieur the Governor been present, all the workmen would have been cut to pieces. The Barbarians divided themselves into three parties, and, although they saw three Barks at anchor, they rushed upon us with so unusual fury that it seemed as if they would [178] carry everything at the first onset. At once all rushed to arms. A Corporal named Du Rocher, who was on guard, seeing that they were already setting foot in the entrenchment, charges them with some Soldiers, and bravely repulses them. The balls from the muskets and arquebuses whistle on all sides. Monsieur the Governor, who was on the water, aboard his Brigantine, is conveyed ashore in a boat, as quickly as possible, and enters the redout, which was not yet in a good state of defense. Our Frenchmen were greatly astonished at seeing the courage and resolution of enemies who, in the minds of those who do not know them, pass for being timid, but who perform deeds of the utmost hardihood; but their attack was bravely repelled. A tall Hyroquois,—wearing a headdress or a sort of