

Frenchmen, [169] whom Monsieur our Governor had given them. Having reached Montreal, they were all feasted with much benevolence. A Christian Captain said these beautiful words by way of thanksgiving after the banquet: "Formerly, when we had been well treated, we said to our hosts, 'This feast is going to carry your name throughout the earth; all nations will henceforth regard you as liberal people, who know how to preserve life to men.' But I have given up those customs; it is now to God that I address myself when any one does good to me. I say to him these words: 'Thou art good; help those who assist us, cause that they may love thee always, prevent the Demon from approaching them, and give us room near them in Paradise.'" That was a holy compliment.

Two days after their arrival, they embarked again in order to go down to Kebec. Now, as they had not encountered enemies, they imagined that the great river was free therefrom; for that reason, they were not on their guard. A canoe conducted by two Hurons, preceding the shallops, was attacked and taken in lake saint Pierre by a squad of Hiroquois. [170] The canoes which followed, having perceived this, straightway go up again toward the shallops; several young men had gone aside here and there among the Islands, in order to hunt muskrats. Finally, having come together again, they proceed toward the enemy,—who, not thinking that he can resist those shallops, casts himself, along with his prey, into the forest; in a place flooded by the Spring rains, they fortify themselves as best they can. A Christian Captain, preparing himself for combat, made a vigorous harangue to his people, holding in