

unequaled celerity, [40] to swoop down on those canoes; while the French ran, as fast as they could, along the beach to succor them. But they arrived, as I have already said, during the fight that was going on in the woods, and retired, thinking that it was a feint. When the advance-guard of the Hurons perceived the enemy, they immediately gave notice to the Captains who at once threw aside their oils and paints to seize their weapons. They ran, as fast as they could, to the spot where the Hiroquois were to disembark, but they arrived too late; so they collected and disposed themselves in the form of a semi-circle or crescent, to meet the first assault of the enemy, and to hem them in should they come to blows and lance-thrusts. The Hiroquois advanced furiously,—without, however, uttering their usual yells and war-cries, which serve them as trumpets and drums to dispel the warriors' fear and to intimidate the enemy. When almost close enough to scorch their doublets, as the saying is, they fired a volley from their arquebuses, which our Hurons received lying on the ground; after delivering their volley, they charged, not expecting [41] to meet with so much resistance. But the Hurons rose, and, uttering loud yells, they received their enemies with heavy discharges from their pieces; those poor people were taken by surprise, and fled in every direction, with the exception of one squad who tried to defend themselves with their knives; but they were soon surrounded by our people. And, if the Hurons at the base of the crescent had not given way at the first report of the arquebuses, not one of the enemy would have escaped; but those cowards left a door open by which many got away. Three Frenchmen