

Besides the encumbrance of snowshoes, which are a very inconvenient kind of fetters, and that of the packs which all were forced to carry, it was necessary to march three hundred leagues on snow; to cross repeatedly lakes and rivers on the ice, with the danger of falling at every step; to make one's bed on nothing but snow, in the heart of the woods; and to endure cold far exceeding the severity of the harshest winters in Europe.

Nevertheless, our Troops proceeded on the first day to Sillery, to commend the fortunes of [30] their undertaking to the Archangel saint Michael, Patron of that place. On the third day, many had noses, ears, knees, and fingers, or other parts of the body, entirely frozen, and the rest of their persons covered with scars; while some others, being utterly overcome and benumbed with the cold, would have died in the snow had they not been carried, with great difficulty, to the spot where the troops were to pass the night.

Sieurs de la Fouille, Maximin, and Lobiac, Captains in the Regiment of Carignan, having joined this little army at three Rivers on the 24th of January,—each with 20 soldiers from his Company, and some of the habitants of the place,—the cold treated them more harshly on the very next day than it had on the [31] preceding days. It was necessary to carry back many soldiers, some of whom had their legs cut by the ice, and the others their hands, arms, or other parts of the body completely frozen. These losses were made good by sieurs de Chambly, Petit,^s and Rogemont, Captains in the same Regiment, and by sieur Mignardé, Lieutenant of the Colonel's company, who were drawn from forts St. Louis and sainte