

that, to assure their satisfactory issue, it was necessary by force of arms to render the Agniehronnons still more tractable, as they were always the occasion of new obstacles to the public tranquillity. Despite his advanced age, he determined to conduct, in person, against those Barbarians an army, composed of six hundred soldiers drawn from all the Companies, [39] six hundred settlers of the country, and a hundred Huron and Algonquin Savages. All the preparations for this war were completed, through the assiduous efforts of Monsieur Talon, on the 14th of September, which was the date assigned for the departure, as being the day of the Exaltation and triumph of the Cross, for the glory of which the expedition was undertaken. The rendezvous was set for the 28th of September at Fort sainte Anne, which had been recently built on an Island in lake Champlain by sieur de la Mothe, a Captain in the Regiment of Carignan.⁹ Some troops having been unable to reach this place soon enough, Monsieur de Tracy could not leave it with the main body until the 3rd of October. But Monsieur de Courcelles, [40] yielding to his customary impatience to gain the scene of action, set out some days in advance with four hundred men; while sieurs de Chambly and Berthier,¹⁰ commanders of Forts saint Louïs and l'Assomption, were left behind, to start with the rear-guard four days after Monsieur de Tracy. As it was necessary to push forward six-score leagues into the country to find the enemy's villages, and as there were many large lakes and rivers to cross in order to reach them, it was also necessary to provide conveniences for water and land travel. The necessary boats had been provided for this expedition,