

there being three hundred in readiness, a part of which were very light boats, [41] and the rest canoes of bark, each of which carried, at the most, five or six persons. After crossing a lake or river, all were forced to bear a hand at carrying the boats, which were transported by main strength; but this caused less difficulty than two small cannon which were taken to the very last villages of the Iroquois, in order the more easily to reduce all their fortifications.

However great the care taken to conduct this march with little noise, our men could not prevent some Iroquois, who had been sent as far as thirty or forty leagues to reconnoiter our forces, from gaining a view, from the mountain-tops, of this little naval army, and hastening to the first village to give warning of its approach. [42] Consequently, the alarm having then spread from hamlet to hamlet, our troops found them abandoned; while in the distance could be seen the Barbarians, loudly hooting on the mountains and discharging many wasted shots at our soldiers.

Our Troops, halting at each of these villages, which they found empty of men but full of corn and provisions, only long enough to take necessary refreshment, were hopeful of meeting with a stout resistance in the last one, which they prepared to attack in regular form, since the Barbarians showed clearly enough by the great fire they were making there and by the fortifications they [43] had constructed, their determination to offer there a vigorous defense. But our men were again disappointed in their hope; for scarcely had the enemy seen the advance-guard approaching, when they promptly took flight into the woods, whither the night prevented our forces