

Two Letters of Reverend Father Bechefer to
Monsieur Cabart de Villermont.

QUEBEC, September 19, 1687.

YOU asked me, Monsieur, to inform you of the success of Monsieur our Governor's expedition against the Iroquois.¹⁷ Here is an account of the whole affair. When the army was reviewed on an island near Montreal, it was found to consist of 800 men of the regular troops, and a like number of militia,—besides one hundred Canadians, who were to be constantly employed in transporting provisions in canoes to Catarokouy; and a hundred others, forming a sort of small flying camp. About 300 christian savages who are settled among us—Iroquois, Algonquins, Abnakī, and Hurons—joined the expedition. They started from the rendezvous on the 11th of June, and safely passed all the rapids that are met along a distance of 40 leagues, without other loss than that of 2 men, who unfortunately were drowned. They expected that the enemy would dispute the passage, but not one appeared; and there were only the rapidity and the impetuous current of the waters to contend against,—with labor and fatigue that no one can conceive without witnessing them. In these difficult passages, our savages, who are accustomed to them, were of very great assistance to the french. Finally, after much fatigue, and after having had rain and contrary winds nearly every day, they reached fort