

able—but, what is more, the most dangerous—was to gain the beach. It was on this that they decided. In an instant, we saw them moving with haste to the shore; some of them, in order to reach it sooner, began to swim, flattering themselves with being able to escape to the shelter of the woods—an ill-planned undertaking, the folly of which they continually had to lament. Whatever be the speed which the increased efforts of rowers can give to boats that the science and skill of the workman have made capable of swiftness, it does not approach, by a great deal, the fleetness of a bark canoe; this glides—or, rather, it flies—over the water with the rapidity of an arrow. Therefore the English were soon overtaken. In the first heat of the combat all were massacred without mercy; all were cut to pieces. Those who had already gained the woods did not meet a better fate. The woods are the element of the Savages; they run through them with the swiftness of a deer. The enemy were overtaken there and cut to pieces. In the meantime, the Outaouacks, seeing that they were no longer dealing with warriors, but with people who allowed themselves to be slaughtered without resistance, decided to take them prisoners. The number of these amounted to a hundred and fifty-seven; that of the dead, to a hundred and thirty-one; only twelve were fortunate enough to escape captivity and death. The barges, the equipments, the stores,—everything was taken and pillaged. By this time, Monsieur, you doubtless suppose that so undeniable a victory cost us dear. The combat took place on the water,—that is to say, in a place wholly open; the enemy were not taken by surprise. They had every leisure to make