

was much alleviated by the motive that inspired it, and by the success that crowned it—when I perceived a general commotion in all the quarters of our camp. Every Corps was in motion,—French, Canadians, and Savages; all were running to arms, all were preparing to fight. A reported arrival of the help so long expected by the enemy had produced this sudden and general activity. In this moment of alarm Monsieur de Montcalm, with a presence of mind which revealed the General, attended to the safety of our intrenchments, the service of our batteries, and the defense of our boats. He then went to take his place again at the head of the army.

I was sitting calmly at the door of my tent, from which I saw the troops marching by, when one of my Abnakis came to disturb my tranquillity. Without any ceremony, he said to me: *My father, thou hast promised us that even at the peril of thy life thou wouldst not hesitate to give us the help of thy ministrations; could our wounded come to thee here across the mountains which separate thee from the place of combat? We are going away, and we expect the performance of thy promises.* So energetic an appeal made me forget my fatigue. I hastened my steps, I made my way through the regular troops; at length, after a forced march, I reached a piece of ground where my people, at the head of all the Corps, were awaiting the combat. I immediately sent a few of them to collect those who were scattered. I was prepared to suggest to them religious acts suitable to the circumstances, and to confer upon them a general absolution at the approach of the enemy; but the latter did not appear. Monsieur de Montcalm, that he might not lose the reward of so many attempts,