

contrived a stratagem which would make an opportunity for the action that we had come to seek at so great cost; he resolved to order the French and the Canadians to fight with each other a mock battle. The Savages, concealed in the woods, were to face the enemy, who would not fail to make a vigorous sally. The expedient laid before our Iroquois was an admirable artifice; but they pleaded that the day was too far advanced. The rest of the Savages vainly challenged this opinion, but the excuse was judged admissible, and accepted; thus each one went back to his place without having seen anything but the preparations for a combat. Finally, on the morrow,—the eve of Saint Lawrence's day, and the seventh day after our arrival,—the intrenchments having been pushed forward as far as the gardens, we prepared to plant our third and last battery. The proximity of the Fort led us to hope that in three or four days we should be able to make a general assault, by means of a suitable breach; but the enemy spared us the trouble and the danger; they hoisted a French flag, and asked to capitulate.

We are near the surrender of the fort and the bloody catastrophe which followed. Doubtless every corner of Europe has resounded with this sad occurrence, as with a crime the odium of which perhaps falls back on the Nation and disgraces it. Your fairness will at once judge if such a glaring imputation rests on any other basis than on ignorance or on malignity. I shall relate only facts of such incontestable publicity and authenticity that I could, without fear of being contradicted, support them by the testimony of even Messieurs the English Officers, who were the witnesses and victims of them.