

Immediately on the close of the winter, he commenced drawing plans of his fortification; according as the ground became bare, he staked out its principal parts and on the first of April, we were in a condition to set the troops to work who had wintered in the government of Quebec.

The Court will see by the plans transmitted, on which the old inclosure (*enceinte*) is laid down, what are the works we have constructed; and it is true that, including masonry, terraces and carpentry work, five hundred men have not been employed over fifty or sixty days; the whole at a very reasonable rate for Canada.

Though the defence of Quebec appeared the most urgent affair, and what had to be principally attended to, the necessities of other places were in no wise overlooked.

The return of that prodigious quantity of peltry which was known to be at Missilimakinac was of considerable importance; the fear of an irruption of the enemy above and below, excluded all idea of being able to send thither the number of Frenchmen considered sufficient to transport them.

It was necessary, however, to make every effort to obtain them; as the favor which the Court confers on the inhabitants of Canada, by annual licenses, was not productive of any benefit so long as such a vast number of Beavers remained at the place where the ordinary trade is carried on.

This motive, conjoined to that of recovering nearly two hundred Frenchmen who were dispersed among the Upper Tribes, and who could be usefully employed against the enemy that was threatening us, induced the Count to dispatch *Sieur D'argenteuil*, a reduced Lieutenant of troops, with eighteen Canadians to convey his orders to *Sieur de Louvigny*. It was impossible to engage them for this voyage except by the hope of a handsome reward, the danger being imminent for a party so small as theirs.

He was expressly commanded to send down the greatest number of Frenchmen possible, and to retain only as many as were necessary for the security of the posts he was occupying; to engage the Indians to assist them in bringing down their peltries, and especially to hasten their departure, in order to anticipate the designs of the Iroquois, who might, as in other years, render themselves masters of the passes.

Sieur D'argenteuil was escorted by several Indians of the Sault and Mountain, and by some twenty French Volunteers, who, as well as the Indians, had to be allowed a large daily pay during their voyage, the soldiers being busy elsewhere. The whole was commanded by *Sieur de la Valterie Junr.*, Ensign of the troops.

This escort was attacked on its return by a large body of Iroquois who threw themselves on both sides of a rapid at the head of the island of Montreal.

They fired so suddenly on our canoes that it was impossible to avoid them; that which *Sieur de la Valterie* was aboard of, was the most severely handled, and having been forced to run ashore in consequence of the multitude of balls it received, and through fear of foundering, the enemy, in whose vicinity *M. de la Valterie*, already severely wounded, disembarked, overtook him as he was retreating with another Frenchman, and slew them both.

We lost, on this occasion, two other Frenchmen, and the enemy, an Indian belonging to the Mountain who was taken prisoner, and who has since been recognized, as will be seen hereafter. At the same time that *Sieur D'argenteuil* started for the Outagacs, several parties were formed of Indians of the Sault and Mountain whom *M^r de Callière* sent out expressly to obtain prisoners and learn some news.