

from Messieurs de La Durantaye and du Lhu, who had arrived at Niagara on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, with about one hundred and eighty of the most active Frenchmen of the Colony, and about four hundred Indians, and were waiting impatiently for news from me by the bark I had promised to send them loaded with provisions and ammunition. This bark had left Cataracouy as early as Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, and favored by the northeast wind, should have arrived at Niagara on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of July.

Sieur de la Forêt informed me that Sieur de la Durantays had seized thirty Englishmen, who, under an escort of some Iroquois, were on their way to trade at Missilimaquinak, the same as last year, under pretence that that post belonged to them, although we have held it for more than 25 years, it being the store, the entrepôt of all our commerce. Those thirty Englishmen were taken in Lake Huron, twenty leagues from Missilimaquinak. They were pillaged and made prisoners without any further injury, although it would have been lawful to have treated them as enemies, being in arms with our foes.

He further informed me, that the corps which was at Niagara, had met another party of about thirty Englishmen, also escorted by hostile Indians, who were likewise going to Missilimaquinak under the guidance of some French deserters. They were met by our people at the Detroit of Lake Erie, near the Fort we occupy there, and were treated like the others.

I directed Sieur de la Forêt to return immediately having charged him with the necessary orders for the junction of the said corps of French and Savages at Niagara, with ours at the rendezvous I had fixed near the mouth of the Seneca river, but the wind being too violent, he could not set out until the evening of the next day; and then he could accomplish only two or three leagues.

2<sup>d</sup> of July. Passed this day in distributing provisions, and in repairing all the leaky bateaux, it being our intention to leave on the morrow, the 3<sup>d</sup>. We arranged the two large bateaux for carrying in each a small cannon, some long guns, and some arquebuses à croc,<sup>1</sup> and twenty men to cover our landing when we should reach the enemy's country.

3<sup>d</sup>. We waited for Peré, who, by reason of contrary and violent winds, had not been able to arrive on the 2<sup>d</sup> as directed. He came about 10 o'clock in the morning, with 18 Indian warriors, and a number of women and children, making in all about 80 persons. The men were all bound in the fort. The whole party numbered 51 able bodied men, and a hundred and fifty women and children. Orders were given to embark in the afternoon, but the wind did not permit, so the remainder of the day was employed in putting the provisions, ammunition and implements into the two remaining barks, to send them to the general rendezvous near the Senecas.

4<sup>th</sup>. We embarked at day break, and took the route by the way of la Famine, coasting along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Many traverses were made under favor of the calm which continued all day, and by which we happily profited. We advanced this day more than ten leagues, and encamped on the Island named des Galots,<sup>2</sup> which we reached very opportunely, for hardly had our bateaux arrived, when a wind from the southeast sprung up so violent as to have obliged us to make the nearest land, had it commenced sooner. It continued all night with such violence, that the waves compelled us to draw our bateaux ashore.

<sup>1</sup> An ancient firearm, resembling a musket, but which is supported on a rest by a hook of iron fastened to the barrel. It is longer than a musket and of larger calibre. *James' Military Dictionary*. — Ed.

<sup>2</sup> See III, 433, note 4.