

it was safe from any attack that could be made upon it except by an enemy possessing heavy artillery.

Nashwaak thus became the headquarters of French power in Acadia, and the place from which the cruel orders went forth which ravaged the border towns of New England for several years. It would be both tedious and unprofitable to relate these atrocities in detail; so I will make but the merest reference to them in this article. They were disgraceful to human nature; yet they had the sanction and support of the French authorities in Canada, and the English who were thus attacked were not less bloodthirsty and cruel when they had the opportunity of making reprisals. It was an age of cruelty, when even the ministers of religion encouraged the shedding the blood of their enemies.

In the summer of 1694, the Indians, who were led by a French officer named Villieu, were very active in attacking the English settlements. They captured Dover, where they killed one hundred persons, and they committed depredations at Groton, Piscataqua, York, Kittery, and other places. Villieu was able to boast in his letter to the French governor that two small forts and fifty or sixty houses had been captured and burnt, and 130 English killed. The scalps of the murdered English were sent to Count Frontenac at Quebec.

Scarcely were these bloody operations ended, when a mysterious and mortal illness fell upon the Indians of the St. John river. The Chief of the river died of it, and upwards of one hundred and twenty members of the tribe, including many of the best warriors. Its ravages extended to all parts of Acadia, sweeping off the Indians by hundreds; but it was nowhere more severe than on the St. John. One of its effects was to cause the Indians to abandon their town at Meductic, and it was not re-occupied for several years. The strength of the Indians and their ability to wage war was greatly reduced by this plague; indeed, it is doubtful if they ever recovered from its effects.

In the summer of 1696, Villebon gathered together all the Acadian Indian warriors that he could muster for an expedition against Fort William Henry at Pemaquid. He was assisted by two French warships from Quebec, under d'Iberville and Bonaventure, and by all the tribes of the Penobscot and Kennebec. Fort William Henry was a new stone work which had just been erected at a cost of twenty