

row of palisades; others worked diligently with the pick and shovel, filling up the space between the two rows with earth high enough to protect a man standing upright. In the earthwork were left twenty loopholes large enough to allow three marksmen to use their muskets to advantage at each. Just as they were throwing the last shovelful of earth between the palisades, they were called to arms by the savage yells of the Iroquois, who had completed their fort, and were returning to the attack. This time they were trying a new plan. They had broken up the canoes of the besieged, and, setting fire to the pieces of bark, rushed forward at full speed with these blazing torches, endeavoring to throw them against the palisades, and burn out their foes. But the muskets of the fort kept up an incessant fire, and torch-bearer after torch-bearer fell dead. Still their comrades pressed on, but the hot, close fire was too much for them, and they hurriedly retreated, leaving behind them many dead and wounded.

After a brief rest they renewed the attack, ably led by a daring Seneca chief, whose spirit so inspired his men that they seemed likely to reach the palisades. But a bullet struck the leader, and his followers fled. Several of the young Frenchmen, desiring to show their courage, and strike terror into the hearts of the Iroquois, volunteered to go out and bring in the head of the fallen chief. Their comrades stood by the loopholes, and every time an Indian showed himself, poured a volley in his direction. Protected by this heavy fire, they succeeded in reaching the dead chief, cutting off his head, and returning to the fort unhurt. With exulting cheers they set the head up on the most prominent part of the palisades, right in the face of the enraged enemy. This filled them with savage determination for revenge. Again they rushed forward to take the little fort, but again they were repulsed with severe loss. After this third repulse they felt that, with their present force, it would be impossible to succeed.

After debating what would be the best course to follow, they decided to send a canoe to five hundred of their companions encamped on the Richelieu, to ask them to come at once and to help them crush the band intrenched in the rude little fort. After their messengers had departed, a continuous fire was kept up on the fort, and every now and then they feigned a rush, so as to keep the