

our left, he has cut to pieces the French and Savages from Three Rivers who, as we said in the first Chapter, were going to Nekouba as well as we; in our rear, scarcely had we left Tadoussac when the enemies arrived there, and if they did not proceed against us, after murdering some Frenchmen there, it was because God blinded them, [99] and made them forget all about it. In front of us, and at our journey's end, which is the North Sea, the Iroquois intended to be there as soon as we, having left his own country for that purpose, because unable to find any other limit to his ravages than the Sea,—and that, too, the one farthest distant from his country, whither neither French nor Savages from our land have yet been able to penetrate.

“That is not all. We have had them in our midst, and, as it were, in our very bosom—a hundred and eighty of these rovers having lain in ambush for us on Lake St. John, where we tarried long enough to visit and cheer the remnants of a devastated Church.²⁰ Not meeting us, they changed their route. Had they followed [100] and caught sight of us, they could very easily have defeated us—taking us either when we were fighting with the turbulent waters, or else in the midst of some portage, when each one was going or coming, laden with Canoe or packages, without arms or means of defense; and when the women, in utter weariness, found it very difficult to drag themselves through the brushwood; while the children, unable to follow them, were filling the woods with their cries.

“In these situations, the men seemed to scale the hills with feet and hands, or else, fully laden as they were, they preserved their balance on the pinnacles