

young lad to be put on shore. Finding things in this posture, we returned and gave madam an account of it.*

The expedition which consisted of 500 men, under the command of Col. Church who had won reputation in King Philip's war, left Boston on the 25th August, 1666, in a number of shallops and light vessels, and followed the coast, calling at Piscataque, Penobscot, and Kennebec. They then sailed for Beaubassin, (Fort Lawrence) at the head of Cumberland Bay, where they landed and committed various depredations, plundering the inhabitants, who fled to the woods. Church's experience in Indian warfare had probably unfitted him for strife of a more civilized character; for there was certainly something piratical in the conduct of this expedition, which appears to have started with no more definite object than to plunder and annoy the enemy. After spending several days at Beaubassin, they again set sail, and on the 29th September arrived off St. John Harbor, landing somewhere in the vicinity of Manawagoniche. Here Church was informed by a French soldier, whom he captured, that 12 cannon were buried in the beach, which were probably part of the armament intended for the fort which was to be erected on the site of Fort la Tour. After taking possession of them, he sailed for the St. Croix, where he was joined by a reinforcement from Boston, consisting of the *Arundel*, the *Province* galley, and a transport, with 200 men on board. Church was here superseded by Colonel Hawthorne, who took the chief command of the expedition—a change which, by spreading dissatisfaction among the leaders, operated injuriously on the result of the enterprise. Villebon, who was constantly on the alert, had early suspected that an attempt would be made to capture Nashwaak, and had sent an ensign, named Chevalier, with 4 men, to the mouth of the river to watch for the approach of the enemy. From a rocky point which overlooks the Bay, they could observe an English brigantine approaching, and soon after the rest of the fleet hove in sight. Some of the troops landed from the vessels with such celerity that Chevalier and his party were attacked, and had to take to the woods; and two days later, when he was returning to the coast, he fell into an ambuscade, and was killed, and two of his men taken by the Indians, who had allied themselves to the English. Intelligence of Chevalier's fate and the approach of the enemy was taken to Villebon, at Nashwaak, by a brother of the latter, M. de Neuville, who had been sent out to reconnoitre. Vigorous preparations were immediately made to resist an attack, which was now certain, and all the available aid in the vicinity at once called in. The garrison numbered 100 soldiers and they were kept constantly employed in strengthening the defences and mounting fresh cannon. On the 12th October, when Neuville arrived at the fort, Villebon despatched a messenger to father Simon, begging him to bring as many of his neophytes as he could influence, to the defence of the Fort. On the 14th Simon arrived at Nashwaak with 36 warriors to join the garrison, who were still constantly employed in throwing up new entrenchments. Neuville was again sent out to reconnoitre, and on the 16th he returned, reporting that he had seen the English in great force a league and a half below Jemseg, and that their approach might be hourly expected. On the 17th the *generale* was beat, and Villebon addressed the garrison, exhorting them to be brave in the defence of their post, and reminding them of the prowess of their nation. To stimulate their courage still further, he assured them that if any of them should be maimed in the contest, his majesty would provide for him while he lived. This address was listened to with much enthusiasm, and at its close the cries of *vive le roy* awakened the echoes of the wide spreading forest, and were borne down the river almost to the English fleet. The same evening Baptiste, the captain of a French privateer, with the brothers Rene' and Mathieu d'Amours, and ten Frenchmen, who lived lower down the river, arrived at the fort. Villebon stationed them with the Indians, to endeavor, if possible, to prevent the landing of the English. Baptiste and Rene' d'Amours were placed in command of this detachment. That night the garrison lay under arms, as from the barking of the dogs, it was evident the enemy was near. Next morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock, an armed sloop rounded the point below the fort, and was immediately followed by two others, all of them being full of armed men. Villebon was attending mass at this time, but on the alarm being given, hastened at once to his post. The vessels approached until they were within half the distance of a cannon shot, when they were fired on from the fort, upon which they made for the shore, and effected a landing on the eastern side of the St. John, behind a point of land on the lower side of the Nashwaak. No attempt was made to oppose their landing, as the River Nashwaak intervened between them and the French. They advanced at once to a point opposite the fort, where the river did not exceed a pistol shot in width, and commenced throwing up earthworks in the form of a demi bastion. In three hours they had two guns mounted and ready to fire, and hoisting the Royal Standard of England, they commenced firing. A third gun of larger size was mounted in the course of the day. The contest was carried on with vigor,—the fire of musketry being heavy, and the guns on both sides well served, La Cote particularly distinguishing himself by the rapidity and precision of his firing from the fort. The Indians on both sides appear to have taken a considerable part in the contest, which was only terminated by the approach of darkness. The English, with singular negligence, had omitted to provide themselves with tents, and were consequently in a great measure at the mercy of the elements. That night was frosty and cold on the low land at the margin of the river, and the fires which they lighted were targets for the enemy's shot, so that they were obliged to extinguish them. In consequence of this, they suffered greatly, and were in poor condition to renew the attack next morning. As soon as day dawned, the fire of musketry from the fort commenced, and about 8 o'clock the English got their guns again into operation. One of them was dismounted by a shot from the fort, and the firing became so severe that the others had to be abandoned in the course of the day. From the vigor with which the defence was conducted, it became evident that the fort could not be taken unless by a regular investment, while the absence of tents and the approach of winter made such an operation impossible. It was therefore decided to abandon the undertaking, and the same evening fires were lighted over a large extent of ground to deceive the French while the troops embarked. Villebon seems to have suspected the design, for he proposed to Baptiste and Rene' d'Amours to cross the river below the fort and annoy the English in their retreat with their Indians, but they declined so uncertain and dangerous a service. When the morning dawned, the English camp was empty, and Neuville was sent to see if they had embarked. He found their vessels (4 in number) three leagues below, and going down the river with a favorable wind. The expedition, according to the French account, lost 80 men from sickness on the voyage back to Boston. Thus ended the siege of Nashwaak. The loss of the French is stated by them to have been one soldier killed, a second losing his legs, and a third being wounded by the bursting of his musket. Mathieu d'Amours, who lived at Freneuse, opposite the mouth of the Oromocto, and who came to assist in the defence of the fort, was so much injured by exposure during the siege that he shortly afterwards died, and the English, on their way down the river, burnt his residence and laid waste his fields. The English loss in the siege was said to be 8 soldiers killed, and 5 officers and 12 soldiers wounded—a number which, considering the exposed position they occupied and the vigor of the French fire, does not appear too large to be worthy of credence.