

ranged with a sort of bedstead; and this M. de Troyes shared with M. de Vaudreuil until such time as the latter gentleman quit us. There were three other cabins built with chimneys, doors and little windows. We also constructed a baking house with a large oven and chimney, partly covered with boards and the remainder with hurdles and clay. We also built an extension framed building without chimney and a large store house with pillars eight feet high and made from time to time yet other constructions for the men and goods—though Dieu defend! we had spare room for both soon enough. In the square in the midst of the buildings we digged a well and although the water was sweet enough yet from the first for lack of proper curbing and protection it was ever much riled and impure when we drew it, a detriment alike to health and cooking.

M. de Vaudreuil seeing us at last well roofed and having directed for a little the getting of a store of firewood made his adieux. Even then in those fine August days a spirit of discontent was among us and more than one spark of a soldier who at the first camp had been hot upon staying on the Niagara, sought now to be taken in M. de Vaudreuil's escort. But that gentleman replied that he wished to make a good report of us all to the Governor and that for his part he hoped he might come to us early in the spring with the promised detachment of troops. And so we parted.

Now the spring before when we had all followed the Marquis de Denonville across Lake Ontario, to harass the cantons of the Iroquois, this establishment of a post on the Niagara was assuredly a part of that gentleman's plan. It is not for me, who am but a mere lieutenant of marines, to show how a great commander should conduct his expeditions; yet I do declare that while there was no lack of provisions made for killing such of the savages as would permit it, there was next to none for maintaining troops who were to be left penned up in the savages' country. We who were left at Fort Denonville had but few matlocks or even axes. Of ammunition there was none too much. In the Senecas' country we had destroyed thousands of minots of corn (about 3 bushels) but had brought along scarce a week's rations of it to this corner. We had none of us gone a soldiering with our pockets full of seed, and even if we had brought ample store of corn and pumpkin seed, of lentils and salad plants the season was too late to have done much in gardening. We made some feeble attempts at it; but no rain fell, the earth baked under the sun so hard that great cracks came in it; and what few shoots of corn and pumpkins thrust upward through the parched soil withered away before any strengthening juices came in them. To hunt far from the fort we durst not save in considerable parties,