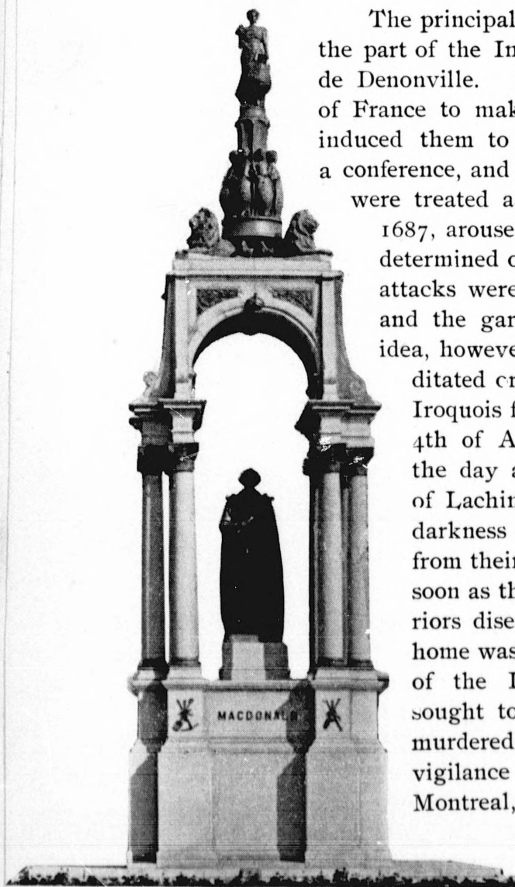


the passage for the first time, the manner in which the boat speeds to within a few feet of the rocks, and then suddenly turns and passes them in safety, seems little short of miraculous.

Lachine, however, is associated with other, and gloomier memories; for on the night of the 4th of August, 1689, it was the scene of the most unheard of cruelties, the most terrible tragedy that has ever occurred in the annals of Canada, known as the :—

#### MASSACRE OF LACHINE.

The principal cause which led to this horrible onslaught, on the part of the Indians, was the action of the French governor, de Denonville. Having received instructions from the Court of France to make prisoners a number of Iroquois chiefs, he induced them to visit Cataracqui, under pretext of attending a conference, and then despatched them to France, where they were treated as convicts. This action of the Governor, in 1687, aroused the ferocity of the various tribes and they determined on a revenge. For the next two years constant attacks were made on the fortified places along the river, and the garrisons were in a state of embarrassment. No idea, however, was entertained of the awful revenge premeditated or the preparations that were being made by the Iroquois for their murderous work. The morning of the 4th of August dawned bright and clear, and through the day all was quite and peaceful in the neighborhood of Lachine. Night crept on, and midst the increasing darkness of a storm, numerous canoes moved noiselessly from their place of hiding and shot across the water. As soon as they reached the shore hundreds of savage warriors disembarked and scattered themselves, till every home was surrounded and set on fire. Then to the yell of the Indian warwhoop, the terrified inmates who sought to escape were thrust back into the flames, or murdered with the tomahawk. Some few eluded the vigilance of the watch and were making their way to Montreal, but their retreat was cut off and they fell beneath the blows of their enemies. Vengeance was complete; the scene of havoc and ruin extended for miles, till not a house remained standing.



SIR JOHN MACDONALD MONUMENT.