

mies. « The attack was most stubborn and the defense most victorious and although the besieged were so few in number against two hundred enemies who surrounded the hospital on all sides, they sustained the combat from six in the morning until six in the evening. (1) The only victim of this desperate struggle was Archambault who loaded a cannon to hasten the rout of the enemy and was killed by the bursting of the piece. He was buried in his victory, for the discharge and the bursting of the cannon killed many savages; the others were seized with terror and fled. » (2)

At Three Rivers the danger was still more frequent; there it was really a man-hunt. Favored by the nature of the soil still covered with forests, these terrible enemies lay in ambush day and night. During the day time, concealed behind a tree or in a depression of the soil or among the rushes on the seashore, they awaited with that patience which was characteristic of the savage, the passage of some white man. At night crawling like snakes around the houses they tried to surprise the scattered and defenceless families. Woe to the belated or isolated settler! He fell struck by an invisible tomahawk or was carried away by force.

« One heard continually of prisoners tied to the stake, of scalps torn off, of mutilated limbs, of women and children tortured, flogged and burned alive . . . Unable to reach in his impenetrable retreat an invisible enemy who struck in the dark and vanished without leaving a trace behind him, the settlers despairingly asked themselves whether the colony, harassed as it was on all sides, would not soon be decimated and drowned in its blood. »

What! Perish? Ah no, Canada shall not perish. It has in heaven a protectress more powerful than armies; she watches over it and will always send it succor at the opportune moment.

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(1) Faillon — *History of the French Colony*, II. p. 126.

(2) Leblond de Brumath — *History of Montreal*. p. 55.