

and all whom he would let go sailed away around the great lake for Montreal. But he ordered that an hundred officers and men stay behind to hold this new fort Denonville. He had placed in command over us the Sieur de Troyes of whom it would not become me to speak in anywise ill.

There were sour looks and sad as the main force marched to the batteaux. But the Marquis did not choose to heed anything of that, we were put on parade for the embarkation—though we made a sorry show of it, for there were even more rags than lace or good leather—and his Excellency spoke a farewell word in the hearing of us all.

"You are to complete your quarters with all convenient expediency," he said to De Troyes who stood attention before us. "There will be no lack of provisions sent. You have here in these waters the finest fish in the world. There is naught to fear from these Iroquois wasps—have we not just torn to pieces their nests?"

He said this with a fine bravado though methought he lacked somewhat of sincerity, for surely scattered wasps might prove troublesome enough to those of us who stayed behind. But De Troyes made no reply and saluted gravely. And so with a jaunty word about the pleasant spot where we were to abide and a light promise to send fresh troops in the spring the General took himself off and we were left behind to look out for the wasps. As the boats passed the sandbar and turned to skirt the lake shore to the westward we gave them a salute of musketry; but De Troyes raised his hand—although the great Marquis was yet in sight and almost in hailing distance and forbade another discharge. "Save your powder," was all he said and the very brevity of it seemed to mean more than many words and put us into a low mood for that whole day.

Now for a time that followed there was work enough to keep each man busy which is best for all who are in this trade of war especially in the wilderness. It was on the third of August that M. de Brissay left us, he having sent off some of the militia ahead of him; and he bade M. de Vaudreuil stay behind for a space to help the Sieur de Troyes complete the fort and cabins and this he did right ably for us all Canada and the King himself knows M. de Vaudreuil was a man of exceeding great energy and resources in these matters. There was a vast deal of fetching and carrying, of hewing and sawing and framing. And notwithstanding that the sun of that climate was desperately hot the men worked with good hearts, so that there was soon furnished an excellent lodgement for the Commandant; with a chimney of sticks and clay and boards ar-