

ten authority from M. de Maisonneuve, Governor, to take part in the campaign, unwilling though he was to grant it. Nor had they long to wait for the returning Iroquois canoes. The French strengthened as much as possible their pallisades, with earth and branches, and valiantly repulsed the first assault. The Iroquois' ferocity increased with each repulse. Their numbers allowed them to invest closely the rude fort, to burn the canoes of the French and to prepare torches to burn the fort; but, finding all their plans frustrated, they sent a deputation to the 500 Iroquois camped on the Richelieu.

But there was, inside of the fort, an insidious enemy, more to be feared than the blood-thirsty Iroquois. The water failed, and thirst soon troubled the beleaguered Montrealers. By dint of boring, they came to a small gush of muddy water, insufficient to allay their thirst, they had, under the fire of these insurgents, to go and fetch water from the river close by. The Iroquois, seeing their straits, took occasion to remind the Hurons of the uselessness of their defence, and that, unless they surrendered, they would be so closely invested, that they would die of thirst and hunger. These savages decided to surrender in a body. All did, except their courageous chief, Anahontaha, who, on seeing their determination, seized a pistol, and attempted to shoot his nephew, who was amongst the fugitives. The fort contained in all, Anahontaha, the four Algonquins and their chief, and the French. Soon the four hundred Iroquois arrived from the Richelieu encampment, and during three days a new attack was made every hour, but unsuccessfully. The enemy then tried to fell some large trees, in order that, by their fall, they might incommode the dauntless garrison. Some prodigies of valor at last induced the Iroquois to believe that the garrison must be more numerous than they had been led to credit; they deliberated whether it would not be better to raise the siege; and a detachment having come closer than