

in on top of a pole, to prove that they have defeated the enemy. This ceremony, or, if you like, this custom, began on this point, after a kind of combat, in which many Indians lost their scalps, which gave name to the place where the battle was fought.

Lake Champlain is some fifty-five leagues long ; it is studded with very beautiful islands, and its water, which is very pure, makes it abound in fish. The fort which we have in this place, bears the name of St. Frederic ; its situation is advantageous, for it is built on an elevated point about fifteen leagues distant, northerly from the extremity of the lake ; it is the key of the colony on that side, that is to say, on the side of the English, who are only twenty or thirty leagues off.

I arrived there, on the 17th of November, 1735. The season, which began to be severe, multiplied the difficulties of our way ; it is one of the most painful I ever made in Canada, if I except my shipwreck, as you may judge.

The day of my departure from Chambly, a post about forty leagues from St. Frederic, we were obliged to sleep out, and during the night about a foot of snow fell. The winter continued as it set in, and, although we were lodged, we did not suffer less than if we were in the open fields. The building where they put us was not yet finished ; we were only partially sheltered from the rain, and the walls, which were twelve feet thick, having been finished only a few days, added still more to our troubles which the snow and rain gave us. Many of our soldiers were seized with scurvy, and our eyes became so sore, that we were afraid of losing our sight without resource. We were not better fed

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