

pitate than their commander desired, and than became men who had burned so long to meet the Iroquois face to face. The consequence was that the cool, courageous governor was soon left alone in the presence of the blood-thirsty savages. Armed with two pistols, he kept facing the foe and at the same time retreating. That he was in deadly peril, he knew, had the Iroquois aimed only at taking his life. But, as the leader of the French nation, they wished to have the satisfaction of taking him alive, carrying him home in triumph, and torturing him. They made way for their own chief that he might have the distinction of such a capture, and the savage had almost effected his purpose, when M. de Maisonneuve turned and fired. The first shot missed, a second was more successful, and the third laid the pursuer dead, and gave the governor time to escape. For the savages, dreading lest reinforcements arriving should wrest the corpse from their possession, gave themselves up to the task of rescuing it, and no longer troubled themselves with M. de Maisonneuve. Meanwhile, the more hasty flight of his men had very nearly ended in a wholesale disaster. For, marking the speed with which they made for the Fort, the guards thought they were Indians, and prepared to deal with them as such. One soldier, with more dispatch than judgment, attempted to discharge a canon that covered the *traineau* road, to the imminent jeopardy of the approaching fugitives who looked for a very different reception. Happily dampness prevented the fuse igniting; otherwise a most deplorable catastrophe would have closed that eventful day. One important result of that first engagement was that thereafter the cautious policy of M. de Maisonneuve was never called in question. A great historian has well said, in connection with this event, that "Samuel de Champlain and Chomedey de Maisonneuve are among the names that shine with a fair and honest lustre on the infancy of nations."

As the area of habitation enlarged, fresh means of protection were constantly required. Like the Israelites of old, they held their building implements in one hand, their weapons of warfare in the other. Already in 1643 the limits of the Fort were found too narrow to accommodate the garrison and the settlers. A hospital and attached chapel were then erected, and surrounded with walls, pierced by loopholes, and strong enough to resist the attacks of the savages, which were renewed every spring. The tillers of the soil were constant objects of violence or treachery. In 1648, a new redoubt was constructed to the south of the fort, which was to serve as a mill and post of observation. In 1651, M. de Maisonneuve marked out a common for the grazing of cattle, an arpent broad and forty arpents long, extending along the river, where we now find Commissioners and Common streets, the latter, *rue de la Commune*, preserving the record of the event. The area in question was gradually resumed into the domain of the state, to be built upon as the needs of the citizens and the requirements of the harbor demanded. In 1652, Lambert Closse, lieutenant of De Maisonneuve, with certain followers, exterminated a band of Iroquois not far from the foot of the present McGill street, and repulsed another band at Point St. Charles, where a redoubt had been built.

From that date the erection of houses advanced rapidly. In 1654, Sister Bourgeois, the founder of the *Congrégation*, again set up on the mountain the cross which had been destroyed, whether by frost or by the Iroquois. At the same time a new cemetery was marked out, where the *Place d'Armes* is to-day. In 1656, the corner stone of a large church was laid near the cemetery, and a redoubt was built at the