

sible, and the miraculous escape from death of these three latter brave and indispensable men showed, as the Abbé Faillon remarks, that the hand of Providence was there. Montreal could not have afforded to lose such colonists. Had the spirited commander deferred the departure of the expedition, as he was requested to do, the 500 Iroquois, who had ensconced themselves at the islands of the River Richelieu, would have time to be joined by the 500 savages who were coming down the Ottawa, and the blow would have fallen on Three Rivers and Quebec. The brave warriors launched their canoes on the waters of the great river. They met the enemy sooner than they expected, and seem to have closed with them at the Ile St. Paul, close to Montreal. The first encounter took place on the 19th April, 1660, the Europeans having the better of the fight, but losing three of their party, viz., Nicholas Duval, Blaise Juillet dit d'Avignon, and Mathurin Soulard,—the two latter having been drowned in the attack. The savages took to the woods, leaving behind an excellent canoe, which Dollard subsequently put to good use.

This brilliant hand-to-hand fight produced a good effect at Montreal, and the recusant colonists who had left Dollard at the beginning, returned to fight under him. They were detained eight days at the end of the Island of Montreal, at a rapid which they had to cross. They crossed, however, and on the 1st May, they were at the foot of the *Long Sault*, on the Ottawa, eight or ten leagues higher than the Isle of Montreal, and lower down than the *Sault de la Chaudière*. Dollard there discovered a small fort, which the Algonquins, the fall preceding, had built with pickets. There they decided to make a stand. They were then reinforced by four Algonquin and forty Huron Indians, the flower of the tribe, who had marched up from Quebec during the winter, intending to attack the Iroquois when returning from their hunting grounds. These warriors had obtained a writ-