

when both were saved by a gallant feat of arms, which will be narrated in another story. It was as heroic as that of the Greeks at Thermopylae, and like it saved the country for a time by the voluntary self-sacrifice of a few devoted men.

CHAPTER VI.

A CANADIAN THERMOPYLAE.

"The story of Daulac des Ormeaux recalls the bravest deeds of the best days of the ancient Greeks and Romans."—*High School History*, page 330.

During the latter part of the winter of 1660, the little settlement of Montreal was kept in perpetual excitement by rumours of the warlike designs of the Iroquois. Hunters, trappers, and friendly Indians were all agreed as to the vast numbers of these irrepressible savages who were wintering in Canada, far from their villages to the south of Lake Ontario, in order to be ready for their murderous and plundering raids just as soon as the French should begin to break up the soil and sow their spring crops.

While many hearts trembled with fear, there was one young man in Montreal whose breast burned with the warrior's delight at these reports, greatly exaggerated as they often were. This young man was Adam Daulac, Sieur des Ormeaux. Though but twenty-five years old, he had already seen a good deal of service; but, while a soldier in Old France, he had in some way stained his character, and was longing to wipe out the disgrace by some heroic deed. He felt that now was the time for action. Having obtained leave from Governor Maisonneuve to collect a party of volunteers to go forth to meet the Iroquois before they could reach the settlements, he at once went to work, and his energy and enthusiasm soon attracted to his leadership sixteen brave followers.

The inhabitants of Montreal looked upon them as a band of heroes, and on a bright morning in early spring the people flocked in crowds to the chapel of the Hôtel Dieu to see them make what would probably be their last confession, and receive the last sacraments.

Having secured an abundant supply of arms and ammunition for