

WHERE DOLLARD FOUGHT

DURING the winter of 1659-60, two or three hundred Iroquois hunted and trapped in the Upper Ottawa region, where no other Indians dared to dispute to them the gathering of the rich furs of the country.

In April 1660, information was received at Montreal of an intended attack by the Five Nations upon that place, aided by the bands then on the Ottawa.

The regular guard or garrison of the little town at that time consisted of sixteen or seventeen young men newly arrived from France, under the direction of a dashing officer, Adam Dollard des Ormeaux, a novice in Indian warfare. He determined to strike a blow at the Iroquois on the Ottawa, in order to prevent their junction with the Indians threatening Montreal from the St. Lawrence. This movement received approval, conditionally on its being undertaken at the proper time and conducted in the manner found most effective by the old settlers. Advice to this effect was tendered to Dollard, but he preferred his own plans.

Charles Lemoyne, Picoté de Bellestre and others who had acquired fame by similar enterprises offered to take part in the expedition. They, however, pointed out that the season was not yet favorable for a start. Their assistance and counsel were rejected. Dollard said he desired no help. He gave it to be understood he wanted the whole of the glory for himself—this he got and a full share of it too!

This squad left Montreal on the 19th April, 1660. They encountered a party of roving Iroquois in the neighborhood where Victoria Bridge was afterwards constructed and were