

churches. Nor was the excitement in the Montreal District at all less. Unless Providence specially interposed, the colony was threatened with utter ruin.

These reflections had occurred to every colonist. None had pondered over them more earnestly than the young Commander of the Montreal garrison, Dollard des Ormeaux, called by some historians Daulac. Though of French origin, he was intimately acquainted with Indian warfare, and came to the conclusion that a blow struck at the proper time might disorganize the machinations of the enemy, and gain delay until the reinforcements arrived from France. He thought that an ambush might be planned; that a small party of good marksmen, such as Montreal then could provide, in a very short time might, by taking advantage of the ground, slay so many of the enemy, that a precipitate flight would take place, before the Montreal Indians could join their forces to those of the Quebec and Three Rivers settlements. The plan, though it savored a little of desperation, when the number of combatants on both sides were compared, had much to recommend it. By the latter end of May, 1660, Dollard had succeeded in working up the enthusiasm of the Montreal youth to the same pitch as his own. Sixteen promised to follow where their commander would lead, provided the Governor of the Colony, M. de Maisonneuve, approved of the expedition. One, however, reconsidered his determination, and did not go.

The remainder made their wills, received the last rites of the Church, and took, in presence of the altar, a vow to fight until death or victory crowned their career, without suing for, or granting any quarter.

Several other colonists, such as Major Lambert Closse, Picoté de Belestre, Charles LeMoyne, also offered their services for this important expedition. They, however, were of opinion it might be delayed until the corn-fields were sowed; but to a mind constituted like Dollard's, delay was impos-