

this formidable armament sailed into the peaceful Basin. M. de Menneval surrendered without attempting a defence. It was a case of where he might as well come down at once. In common parlance, Sir William had the drop on him, and there was nothing left to do but secure the best possible terms, and this was accomplished very adroitly. No one was hurt, the Governor was comfortably carried away, and some of his people shared his captivity. A few inhabitants nearest the fort were sworn allegiance to William and Mary. A sergeant was left in charge, and after ten days the ships departed with considerable plunder that must have seemed trifling to the man who had seen a million fished out of a Spanish wreck, buried in water, sand, and seaweed. The New Englanders were well pleased with the bloodless expedition, although the result was not very important; in reality the French occupancy was only interrupted for a little while at one or two points. Fighting went on for a half dozen years with a good deal of savagery on both sides. The battlefield extended from the frontiers of New York, through the forests and settlements, to central Maine. Frenchmen of noble blood did not hesitate to accompany the Indians on these expeditions against the English settlements and become parties to, and participants in, the attacks where women and children were murdered, and scalped, or dragged away to torture, or imprisonments. That such orgies of cruelty could have been witnessed and instigated by men who considered themselves Christian gentlemen seems almost incredible. The redskins wore crucifixes about their swarthy necks, that were often dabbled in the blood of babies whose mothers' scalps, gouted in gore, were stuck in the girdles of the murderers. The naked savage might plead in defence his ignorance and bad breeding, but the well-tailored savage at his side, who had been daintily cradled in the lap of European civilization, could not avail himself of such a defence. An hundred years later this thin veneer of savagery was thrown aside, and the world witnessed with uplifted hands of horror the deeds of the French Revolution, that showed an unparalleled aptitude for wholesale cruelty. The only defence ever urged for it is, that it was the reaction of even greater atrocities. Is it true that one need not scratch deeper than the skin in any nationality to start the savage blood?

Retaliation took what shape it could, and one of the forms was to equip Col. Ben Church, of Plymouth, to harry the coast wherever the enemy could be found. This leader was a seasoned veteran