

at first, and when near the palisades to rush en masse, and burst in on the besieged. They advanced accordingly, but as soon as any one showed himself he was met with a volley. At last the whole body made a dash for the palisades, but the French were prepared for it, and made such havoc in their ranks that they were forced to flee.

For three days and nights a series of attacks, without order or plan, was made on the fort. Nothing was gained, and not a few of the Indian warriors fell before the unerring aim of the besieged. The Iroquois began to look upon them as aided by the Manitou, and many wanted to give up the seemingly useless contest and return to their lodges. But all their bravest warriors cried out against such a course. A council was called, and the more daring among them made soul-stirring speeches, calling on their brother warriors to uphold the honor of their race.

After the speeches small sticks were tied up in bundles and thrown on the ground, and each one willing to risk all, and join in a determined attack, showed his readiness by picking up a bundle. Warrior after warrior eagerly stepped forward and seized one, while grunts of approval rose from their companions. Soon nearly all were enrolled, few daring to keep back lest they should be regarded as cowards.

When the task of enlisting volunteers was completed, they went earnestly to work to plan an attack. To take the fort by assault was out of the question; they therefore decided to remain as much as possible under cover, until they should reach the palisades. How to do this puzzled them greatly. At last an Indian, more ingenious than his fellows, proposed that trees be cut down and large wooden shields made, behind which they could take shelter without much danger of being struck by the bullets. His suggestion was acted upon, and busily they plied their hatchets. They then made shields by binding three or four short logs closely together. Soon the many hands had enough ready for the braves who were to lead the attack. After a brief rest, the order was given to advance. Slowly but surely the chosen ones led on; while protected by them and their shields, the rest of the Iroquois followed closely behind.

When the French saw this peculiar, fence-like body advance, they did not at first know what to make of it, but they were soon