

event. The natives regarded him as a man come down from heaven, and there was nothing that he could not promise himself from so favorable a disposition, had he not, a few days later, been unfortunately compelled to renounce his projects and his hopes.

The new colony at St. Savior's had not yet had time to assume a regulated form, when an unforeseen storm overturned it to its very foundations. Eleven English vessels sailed from Virginia, under the command of Samuel Argall, to fish near Mount Desert Island. This commander learned on his way that strangers were settling at Pentagoët. He had no doubt they were French; and although the two crowns were at peace, he resolved to expel them, relying on a charter of James I., king of Great Britain, which permitted his subjects to settle up to the forty-fifth degree;¹ and he thought that he might profit by the weakness of the French, to treat them as usurpers. But the historian of Virginia is evidently mistaken when he places this enterprise in 1618, at which time the same Argall was governor of Virginia; for he is formally contradicted on this point by all contemporary historians and by incontestable monuments.²

This Captain Argall had, it seems, only one armed ship, to escort the fishing vessels; at least, at St. Savior's, they perceived only one vessel bearing down, under full sail, with the English flag. Although la Saussaye was ignorant of the intention of the English, he considered it his duty to prepare for any event, remaining ashore to defend his fort, while la Motte le Vilin was ordered to

Eleven English vessels at Pentagoët.

They reduce the colony.

¹ Patents to the London and Plymouth Company in 1606, giving them from 34° to 45° .

² Beverly, History of Virginia, p. 33.4. Smith (Generall Historie, book iv.) would make Argall sent by Sir Thomas Dale in 1614, after knowing of the French settlement; but this may refer to his return. Hamor,

who left Virginia in 1614, mentions it in his True Discourse, p. 36. The main authority is Argall himself. See Letter to Nicholas Hawes, dated June, 1613 (Purchas, iv., 1764), where he says he sailed in May, with one ship of one hundred and thirty tons, carrying fourteen guns and sixty men.