

1613. that they should be well treated and be free ; that they had surrendered to him only on that condition ; and that it was under the same promise that they had voluntarily followed him to Virginia to serve his Britannic Majesty's subjects. The governor replied that he had exceeded his powers, and that as their commander had no commission, they could not but be treated as pirates. Argall, seeing no way to save them except by avowing his treachery to the *Sieur de la Saussaye*, had the honesty to save the lives of so many innocent men at the expense of the shame entailed by such a confession.

Argall
avows his
treachery,
to save the
lives of the
French.

The Eng-
lish seize
Port Royal.

The sight of the commission which he produced disarmed the governor ; but he at once resolved to expel the French from all Acadia, setting up as a pretext the patent of the king of Great Britain. Argall was sent on this expedition with three ships, taking all the French whom he had brought from *St. Savior's*. On his way he learned that a French ship had entered the *River Pentagoët*, and he prepared to engage it, but did not find it. He set up the arms of England at the same place where those of *Madame de Guercheville* had been. Then he went to *Sainte Croix Island*, where he destroyed all that remained of *Mr. de Monts'* old colony. He did the same at *Port Royal*, where he found no one, and in two hours' time the fire consumed all that the French possessed in a colony where they had expended more than a hundred thousand crowns, and labored many years, without having taken the precaution to put themselves in a position to resist a sudden attack.¹ The heaviest loser was *Mr. de Poutrincourt*, who after this gave up all ideas of America. According to *John de Laet* he returned to the service, where he had already distinguished himself by many brilliant feats, and died on a bed of honor.²

¹ Biard, *Relation*, pp. 52-4. He says nothing of the ship in the *Pennobscot*, but *Champlain* alludes to it, p. 108.

² De Laet, *Novus Orbis*, p. 60. He was killed at *Méry-sur-Seine* in 1615, at the age of fifty-eight, and buried at *St. Just*. *Lescarbot* (ed.