

pounds of powder in the magazine.¹ Kertk was doubtless unaware of this critical situation : moreover, he thought that he would fare better with a fleet of the new company, commanded by Mr. de Roquemont, one of its members, which was bringing families and supplies of all kinds to Quebec. He had been notified of its departure by William de Caen, yet to all appearance he would fail in this enterprise.

1629.

Mr. de Roquemont's misfortune was, indeed, less the result of this heretic's perfidy than of his own imprudence. On arriving at the roadstead of Gaspé, he detached a bark to inform Mr. de Champlain of the succor he was bringing,² and to transmit the king's patent creating him governor and his lieutenant-general in all New France, with orders to make an inventory of all the effects belonging to the Sieurs de Caen.³ A few days after dispatching this bark, he learned that Kertk was not far off; and he at once weighed anchor to go and meet him, without reflecting that he exposed himself to the risk of an engagement of doubtful issue, because his ships were very heavily laden and much encumbered, and that they were, moreover, the only resource of a colony on the verge of ruin.⁴ He was not long in finding the English. He attacked them

The English capture a French fleet.

¹ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1632), p. 160. He says he had not fifty pounds of cannon-powder. The Indians were ill-disposed, a chief, Mahican-Aticq, having killed two Frenchmen. This induced distrust and prevented the fisheries : Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 895, etc. ; Le Clercq, i., p. 377. In their distress, two Recollects, Father le Caron and Brother Gervais, set out to winter with the Algonquins ; but meeting Father Joseph de la Roche, and hearing of the withdrawal of the English, returned to Quebec : Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, pp. 927-33.

² Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 939 ; Creuxius, *Hist. Can.*, p. 19.

³ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1632), part ii., pp. 161-3. His commission is, "To (etc.) the Sieur de Champlain, commanding in New France in the absence of our dear and well-beloved cousin, Cardinal Richelieu, grand master, chief and superintendent-general of the navigation and commerce of France." Richelieu governed Canada, after the resignation of Ventadour, under this title, and not as viceroy.

⁴ Champlain criticises de Roquemont fully (*Voyages*, part ii., pp. 164, 165). Sagard, on the authority of two of his order, states that de Roquemont could not avoid the engagement (*Hist. du Canada*, p. 939).