

1673-4. four days in the place in disguise, attacked it with the crew of a Flemish pirate.¹

The English
seize
Pentagoët
and the
fort on
St. John's
River.

This adventurer had one hundred and ten men, and Mr. de Chambly had only thirty; moreover, Pentagoët was not in a state of defence, and the governor was surprised, because the two crowns were at peace. He nevertheless defended himself with great courage, but after an hour's fight, he received a musket-ball through the body, which forced him to retire. Then his ensign and all his people, who were badly armed and more badly minded surrendered at discretion.²

The enemy immediately sent a detachment to Fort Gesmie on St. John's River to carry off Mr. de Marson who commanded there. This was effected without resistance. Thus the whole of Acadia, of which these two forts constituted the whole defence, was left exposed to the incursions of the English. The author of this act of hostility had no commission and was disavowed. It was ascertained, however, that he had received an English pilot at Boston, and they were informed that the Boston people would only with great impatience permit the French to remain possessed of Pentagoët and Fort St. John.³

¹ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 119, 793; Canada Documents, II., ii., p. 94. The Englishman here referred to is evidently John Rhoades, and the Dutch vessel, "The Flying Horse," a frigate from Curaçoa, Capt. Jurriaen Aernouts, acting under a commission of the Prince of Orange. The Dutch considered this a conquest, and on the 27th October, 1676, the West India Company appointed Cornelius Steenwyck governor of Nova Scotia and Acadia; having previously granted Rhoades ample trading powers: De Peyster, Dutch at the North Pole and in Maine, pp. 72-6. Hutchinson (Hist. Massachusetts, i., p. 280; Collections, p. 464) and Williamson (History of Maine, i., p. 580)

seem to make two captures of Penobscot in 1674 and 1676; but there was apparently but one. See, also, N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., 476. The treaty of Nimeguen in 1677 would confirm the Dutch title, but the claim seems to have been abandoned. Though Hutchinson (i., p. 280) says that New England vessels drove off the Dutch.

² Frontenac's Dispatch, November 14, 1674: Canada Doc., II., ii., p. 94; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 119.

³ N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 120, 793; Canada Doc., II., ii., p. 228. Marson surrendered, August 7, 1674.

On the 30th of April, 1672, after a long, painful, and complicated illness, died Mother Mary of the Incarnation, first superior of the Ursuline