

tered the bay into which it empties. At several points he made, pursuant to his instructions, acts of taking possession,¹ signed them with the Sieur de St. Simon, and caused them also to be signed by the chiefs of ten or twelve Indian nations, whom he took the precaution to assemble to witness that ceremony.² Matters remained, nevertheless, on the same footing with regard to the English for several years, and they enriched themselves while the court of France contented itself with assuring its rights there.

On the other hand, the two deserters who had led the English to Hudson's Bay, either from some private pique or from a reawakening love for their native land, had returned to France, although Radisson had married the daughter of Sir (David) Kirk, and the French king had permitted them to return to Canada, granting them even favors there that they had not deserved. Some years after a Northern Company was formed at Quebec, which undertook to drive the English from Hudson's Bay. It deemed it impossible to employ in this enterprise persons better qualified to ensure success than the authors of the evil, who now offered their services, and were the only persons acquainted with the country. There was not one but was convinced that they would seize with avidity so favorable an opportunity of repairing their fault, and perhaps avenging their own wrongs.

They set out in 1682, in two ill-fitted vessels,³ and went straight to the first fort, but found the English so well intrenched that they durst not attack them. They then skirted along the western shore of the bay in search of an advantageous post where they might establish a fur-trade, and on the 26th of August they entered a bay, into

1685.

The two French runaways return to Canada.

They undertake to drive the English from the bay.

¹ Rel. de la N. F., 1672, p. 55.

Captain of Tadoussac: Rel. de la N. F., 1672, p. 55.

² De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 143. Albnel does not state this. He reached Chegoutimi August 1, and embarked on the vessel of Mr. Denis,

³ They asked permission to go to Hudson's Bay, and when Frontenac refused, they asked to go sealing near Anticosti: Canada Doc., I., iv., p. 218.