

in his reach to obtain personal information. According to this Memoir, Radisson and his brother-in-law had scarce begun their establishment on St. Teresa River, when a Boston vessel appeared at the mouth of the river quite near their camp.¹

1683.

Some days after a large London ship anchored in the same place, and alarmed the Bostoners,² who had no commission, as well as the French, who were not yet sufficiently intrenched to make any defence if attacked, as they would apparently be; but it soon excited the compassion of both. Great cakes of ice, driven by the tide, struck it so violently that they made it drag its anchors and drift out, where, notwithstanding all the efforts of the crew, it was stove in by other masses of ice.

All on board escaped on the very icebergs which had caused their mishap, and which carried them back to the mouth of St. Teresa River.³ Then the commandant, who, on his arrival, had summoned the French to withdraw from a country which belonged, he said, to the king his master, asked and without difficulty obtained hospitality. Radisson and des Groseilliers even gave them provisions of which they were in absolute want, and permitted them to throw up huts on the banks of Bourbon River, after requiring a written promise not to fortify their post or do any act that could prejudice the rights of the most Christian king.

This promise was ill kept: the English no sooner reflected on their superiority of numbers than they set to work to intrench themselves; they then took steps to sur-

¹ De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Am. Sept., i., p. 144. The whole crew of the Boston craft was ten men.

² *Bostonnais* was used in Canada to mean the British colonists generally in America, and is still so used by old men. The word passed from the Canadians to the Indians. Even the Mohawks called the English settlers near them *Wastonronon* (Bos-

ton people). See Brant's letter, Col. Ulster Hist. Soc.; Potier, *Racines Huronnes*. The same expression spread to the northwest coast, and in the Chinook jargon Boston is the term for American. See Gibb's *Chinook Jargon*.

³ They escaped in boats: De la Potherie, i., p. 144.