

1683. prise the French, and deprive them of all power to injure them ; but the French were too quick, and made sure of the English. The Memoir from which I derive these facts does not state in what manner this was done, and it is quite probable that Radisson and des Groseilliers seized some moment when the English were off their guard, or, it may be, intoxicated, as it is stated in Jeremie's Relation.

Be that as it may, so great a number of prisoners soon became a great embarrassment to the French, whose provisions, moreover, began to fail ; accordingly, as soon as the season permitted a vessel to put to sea, they embarked a part of the Englishmen on one of the vessels which they had brought from Quebec, and left them at liberty to go where they chose. They then set out themselves, with the rest of the prisoners, on the ship which they had reserved and on the Boston bark, which they seized without much difficulty, and then returned to Quebec, where their manner of proceeding with the English displeased those interested in the Northern Company. They were also annoyed on several points relating to the fur-trade, although they had brought back a heavy cargo of peltries. This all obliged them to return to France, where they hoped to receive greater justice.²

They again
give up
Hudson's
Bay to the
English.

Whether they were really guilty, or whether the ministry had been prejudiced by their enemies, their hopes were baffled, and the despair which they conceived made them turn to the English a second time. Lord Preston, then ambassador from Great Britain to the court of France, learning their discontent, persuaded Radisson to go to London.³ Radisson followed this advice, was well received by Sir (David ?) Kirke, his father-in-law, who obtained for

¹ De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Am. Sept., i., pp. 144-5, does not mention the capture of the London party, but merely says that the French gave them a bark and provisions, on which they sailed for the head of the bay. The

Boston interloper was carried to Quebec.

² The English vessel is said to have been commanded by Gillam.

³ De la Potherie, Hist. de l'Am. Sept., i., p. 45.