

1687.

Enterprise
of the
English in
Acadia.

Dénonville was far from having as favorable intelligence to communicate to the court from Acadia and its vicinity. These southern provinces of Canada continued to be left unrelieved, and the English rarely missed the opportunity to profit by this negligence, to assail the posts which were not in a position to resist. Dutchmen who arrived off the coast a few years before, had demolished Fort Pentagoët.¹ Baron de Saint Castin, ex-captain in the Carignan regiment,² had taken up his post there after a partial restoration; but some time after the governor-general of New England sent to summon him to retire, pretending that the whole country, as far as St. Croix Island, belonged to his government.

He derided the summons, though perfectly conscious that unless relief came he must at last succumb; and this is evident from his letter of July 9th of this year, addressed to Mr. de Dénonville, complaining of the English pretensions. He added that the governor-general of New England appeared to have correspondents in the country. On the whole, the neglect into which these fine provinces had been allowed to fall, was the more surprising, as in the

He makes it occur in the fall, consequently of 1686, after the departure of de Troye in August, 1686. Iberville remained six months longer: De la Potherie.

¹ Ante, p. 188.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 380. Vincent, Baron de St. Castin, was a native of Oleron, in Bearn; came to Canada in 1665, not as colonel of the regiment Carignan Salieres, as erroneously stated by Dexter (Church's Indian Wars, part ii., p. 19) and other American writers, who follow Raynal, but as we are told by Rev. Mr. Petit (letter in Mgr. St. Valier's *Etat Présent*, p. 39), himself originally a captain in that regiment, as ensign in Chambly's company, being at the time only fifteen years of age.

That he ever became captain is doubtful: Ferland, ii., p. 151. He married a daughter of Madockawando, by whom he had several children. When the Chevalier de Grandfontaine, captain in the regiment C. S., was put in command in Acadia (ante 138), St. Castin is said to have been made his lieutenant, although this may have been under Grandfontaine's successor, de Chambly. The plundering of St. Castin's place by the English drove him among the Indians, whose life he to some extent adopted, and over whom he acquired great influence. His wrongs cost New England dear. He returned to France about 1710, some of his children remaining: Shea's *Catholic Missions*, p. 192.