

Tadoussac, twenty-four English vessels, eight of which 1690. seemed to him very large. The Major added that, on this information, he had detached his brother-in-law, the Sieur de Grandville, with a *biscayenne*<sup>1</sup> and a well-armed canoe to obtain more certain intelligence.

The Governor-General had some hesitation in crediting that such a formidable fleet was so near, without his having had the slightest hint of its equipping at Boston. He nevertheless embarked at once with Mr. de Champigny in a small vessel, in which they were well nigh lost;<sup>2</sup> and the next day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, a second courier from Mr. Provôt informed him that the *Demoiselles de la Lande* and *Joliet* had been taken near Tadoussac by a fleet of thirty-four sails, which might well be, at the time he was writing, at *Isle-aux-Coudres*: that is to say, within fifteen leagues of *Quebec*.<sup>3</sup>

Why M. de Frontenac was surprised.

What had contributed most to deceive Frontenac, and tranquilize him in regard to *Quebec*, was that he believed the English fully occupied on the coast of *Acadia*, which he had more than one reason to suppose their object. The fact was true; but he erred in supposing that *Acadia* would delay the English longer than it actually did. Moreover, he could not persuade himself that sufficient force could be sent out of *Boston* to attack, at the same time, all *New France*; still less that *Acadia* had been reduced, and that the conquerors could bring him the first intelligence.

<sup>1</sup> A *biscayenne* was a boat, sharp at bow and stern; sometimes with masts even, but always adapted for oars.

<sup>2</sup> Frontenac to the Minister, Nov. 12, 1690, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 459; Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu*, p. 318.

<sup>3</sup> De Monseignat, *Relation, &c.*, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 483, says the second courier met him at 2 P. M., at *St. Ours*, fifteen leagues from

*Montreal*, and reported thirty-three vessels. *Demoiselle* was a title then of married ladies. The *Demoiselle Joliet*, here mentioned, was the wife of *Louis Joliet*, the companion of *Marquette*. (*La Hontan, Voyages*, i., p. 210.) Frontenac's letter makes the courier arrive earlier. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 459; Account sent by *La Fleur de Mai* (*Ib.*, p. 455); *Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 417.