

1690.

Position in
which
Acadia then
was.

This evil came from his not being sufficiently informed of the wretched state of that province. We have seen that four ships, clearing from the port of Boston, had appeared in sight of Casco Bay, at the moment when that fort had just surrendered to Mr. de Portneuf.¹ It was afterward known at Quebec that these ships, arriving too late to relieve Casco Bay, had made sail for Port Royal. Frontenac had received, in the month of July, a confirmation of this intelligence;² but he was not in a position to relieve that place in case of attack; nor, apparently, did he believe it destitute of troops, provisions, and ammunition to the point it actually was.

Nevertheless, de Manneval, Governor of Acadia, who ordinarily resided at Port Royal, had a garrison of only eighty-six men and eighteen pieces of artillery, which were not even mounted. The last fortifications erected at the place were so insignificant, that they could not protect it against an assault,³ and they were in absolute need of every thing. The other posts were still less fortified, and as ill provided. Moreover, most of the French settlements, even more scattered than those on the St. Lawrence, were absolutely without defense.

It is at-
tacked by
the
English.

Such was the situation of Acadia, when, on the 22d of May, 1690,⁴ a soldier and two settlers, who were on guard at the mouth of the basin of Port Royal, perceived two English ships, crowding sail to enter. They, at once, fired a *boëte*,⁵ the signal prescribed to notify the Governor, and embarked in all haste in a canoe. They reached the fort about eleven o'clock at night; and, on their report, de

¹ Ante, p. 136. See Mather's *Magnalia*, Book ii., p. 47.

² Le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 401.

³ De Monseignat, *Relation*, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 474, and De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amérique* Sept., iii., p. 84, say between sixty and eighty. The commander, Robineau de Menneval, was a brother

to the Baron de Bekancourt and to de Villebon.

⁴ De Menneval to de Seignelay, May 29, 1690 (in N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 921), says that they arrived, May 19.

⁵ Apparently, a *boîte de réjouissance*, a small cannon, set up vertically and plugged when fired—noise being the object.