

1690. which he bore the first tidings of the English irruption into Acadia, and the capture of the governor.

Condition  
of New-  
foundland  
at the com-  
mencement  
of this  
year.

There they had already learned the reverse sustained by the French colony in Newfoundland. The court of France, as I have elsewhere remarked, after long neglecting this island, through ignorance of its value, had, at last, been convinced of the advantage to be derived from its codfisheries. The king, informed of the necessity of fortifying the port of Placentia, and erecting on that side a barrier to the continual usurpations of the English on the posts occupied by his subjects, had sent the *Sieur de la Poype* there as governor, and he had given orders to put him in a position to maintain himself in a post of that importance.

These orders were not too well executed; *Mr. de la Poype* served thirteen years with all possible zeal, but with all the annoyance that want of proper succor can cause a brave man, who feels the need of support, and who, for want of it, can undertake absolutely nothing, either for his own glory, or the good of the state. He was succeeded in 1685 by the *Sieur Parat*, who was not better treated at first; but two years after the *Chevalier d'Heriaux* and *Mr. d'Amblimont* brought him twenty-five soldiers, commanded by the *Sieur Pastour de Costebelle*, with provisions, cannon, powder, and all that was needed to reinvictual and fortify Placentia. A fort was built, and at the entrance of the harbor, a platform covering the anchorage: these two works had nineteen pieces mounted. Care was taken to arm the settlers, on whom much more dependence was placed than on the soldiers. In fine, this colony needed only a commander vigilant enough to be aware of surprise, or enough a man of honor not to surrender the place to the enemies of France; but they were deceived in their choice, and, as often happens, discovered their error only when it was too late to remedy it.

On the 25th of February in this year, 1690, the Governor and his lieutenant were surprised outside their fort in