

their beds by forty-five English freebooters. The soldiers, who were also dispersed hither and thither, were taken and disarmed. The settlers, who had had all opportunity to assume the defensive, surrendered on the threat made by the enemy, that they would massacre the prisoners at the least resistance; and the English loaded their vessel with all the goods, furniture, arms, ammunition, provisions and fishing implements, with which the inhabitants were pretty well supplied. Some of the cannon were also carried off, others thrown into the sea, the rest spiked; and when, after the raid, the prisoners were set at liberty the garrison and inhabitants of Placentia found themselves in about the same position as if they had been shipwrecked on a desert coast.¹

1690.

After the departure of the enemy, the Sieur Parat wished to proceed to France on some one of the Basque vessels fishing off the coast; but all refused to receive him. He transported himself, with three sailors and as many soldiers, to the island of St. Pierre, where he found some St. Malo ships that gave him passage. The Sieur de Costebelle, left commandant at Placentia, thought it his duty to labor incessantly to fortify his position, and he notified the settlers to join him; one of them, however, Andrew Doyen, refused to obey, and even killed a corporal and two soldiers, who attempted to compel him.²

To judge the Governor of Placentia only by what occurred at the capture of his place, he could be accused of no more than a very culpable negligence; but there were far other charges against him, and his precipitate departure without royal permission, gave room to believe that he was not innocent of all imputed to him. On his side he cited his return to France as an irrefragable proof of his innocence. He threw all the fault on the Basques, who, after revolting against him, had begged affidavits to ruin

¹ Friar Joseph Denis to the Minister, Aug. 28, 1690, Canada Doc. iii., p. 91

² Pastour to the Minister, Aug. 28, Sept. 13, 1690. Canada Doc., pp. 95, 101.