

1690. him, or, at least, to put him on his defence, deprive him of all credit, and thereby escape the chastisement which they deserved. I have been unable to learn the decision in the case.<sup>1</sup>

Frontenac  
arrives  
at  
Quebec.

Be that as it may, there is every reason to believe that the pillage of Placentia, and even the loss of Acadia, had they been informed of it in Canada before receiving intelligence of the arrival of the English at Tadoussac, would not have seemed to the Governor-General sufficient reason to believe that he would be himself attacked, without being warned in sufficient season to make preparation. It is, at least, certain that had information of the enemy's approach been delayed three days later, he might have found Admiral Phibs in the capital, when he arrived there himself, and that, had not the English fleet been so violently baffled by the winds, or had better pilots, Quebec would have been taken before they knew at Montreal that it was besieged.

But it must be agreed that no surprise ever did more honor to a general, or redounded more to the shame of the one who should have profited by it. The first step of de Frontenac, on receiving the second courier from Mr. Provôt, was to dispatch de Ramezay, Governor of Three Rivers, to the Chevalier de Callieres, to order him to descend to Quebec as quickly as possible with all his troops, except a few companies, whom he was to leave to guard Montreal, and to direct all the inhabitants, whom he could collect on the road, to follow him.<sup>2</sup>

He then marched to Quebec without halting, and reached it on the 14th of October, at ten o'clock in the evening. There he learned that the English fleet was just below the traverse of Isle Orleans.<sup>3</sup> He was perfectly satisfied with

<sup>1</sup> Parat to the Minister, Sept. 6, 1690. *Ib.*, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> De Monseignat, Relation, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 483. Frontenac to the Minister, Nov. 12, 1690. *Ib.*, p. 459. Canada Doc., iv., p. 128. Account sent by La Fleur de Mai,

*Ib.*, p. 455, De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 112.

La Hontan, Voyages i., p. 210-211.  
<sup>3</sup> Phibs then took this channel; that now used, was first tried by d'Iberville. Ferland, Cours d'Histoire, ii. p. 229.