

1692.

ed a four-gun battery on the Pointe du Goulet, at the other side of the mouth of the Basin, both to render the Goulet inaccessible to the enemy, and to defend the cables with which he had closed it. Moreover the merchantmen had drawn up in line to dispute the passage which the English durst not attempt.

They summon the General.

At noon, on the same day, a boat was seen advancing with a white flag; the Governor sent a sergeant to meet it, and the officer in charge having told this man that he wished to speak to the commandant, was taken to the fort blindfolded. Mr. de Brouillan asked him what this commission was, and he replied, that he came in the name of Mr. Williams, his general, to salute him, and beg him to send an officer on board, to whom he might explain the object of his voyage. He added that there were on board the squadron, a French ship captain and several sailors, prisoners of war, and that an arrangement might be made in regard to them.

The Governor, seeing no objection to granting this request, dispatched de la Hontan and Pastour, a nephew of Mr. de Costebelle, and lieutenant in his company, to the English general, who received them with great courtesy and dismissed them without telling them anything. On their return, the English officer already mentioned, and another, who had remained as hostages in the fort, were also sent back; but the former, before embarking, declared to the Governor that he had orders to tell him that they were sent to take possession of Placentia in the name of William III., King of Great Britain, and that General Williams summoned him to surrender the place, and all possessed by the French in the Bay. To this summons Mr. de Brouillan replied as became him, and the officers retired.

The attack begins.

La Hontan and Pastour had reported that the Albans, the English admiral's ship, carried seventy-two guns, that there were two others of apparently nearly the same force, the Plymouth and Galere; a frigate smaller, and a store-ship of 28 guns. The manœuvre of the preceding evening, however, induced a belief that there were few land troops