

on board this squadron. On the 19th, the besiegers, who had reckoned on taking only one post, found three: Fort St. Louis, the redoubt on the Mountain, and the battery at the Pointe du Goulet. The sight of this seemed to astonish them; for the same day Admiral Williams sent to inform Mr. de Brouillan, that when he wished to make any proposition, he need only raise a red flag.

1692.

The Governor seeing that Williams lowered his tone because he distrusted the success of his enterprise, was the first to open fire. The English at once replied, and for four hours their fire was quite heavy. That of the fort was moderate, de Brouillan wishing to economize his ammunition, his supply being but small; but his guns were better handled, for after six hours fight, the flagship was seen running before the wind and drawing out of the line. The French were almost down to their last charge of powder, and were using only the enemy's balls, picked up in the houses; nearly every building being riddled by them.

The merchantmen, the captains and crews of which showed great alacrity, were not better supplied; but one hundred and twenty men whom they landed, and who were encouraged to exertion by the presence and words of the officers, were of great assistance in the batteries. Towards evening the four ships, which remained in line, retired one after another; but the Governor, unable to imagine that so strong a squadron had only two thousand shots to fire, had no doubt but that they would renew the attack the next day.

He accordingly labored diligently to repair the breaches made in his ramparts and batteries by the cannon, and as he had only five or six men hors du combat, the work was done in six hours. On the 20th a French prisoner on the English Admiral's ship escaped, and reported to the Governor that the enemy seemed very irresolute as to what they should do; that they had not expected to find Placentia so well fortified, and that the crews murmured loudly against so ill concerted an expedition.