

1692.

The siege
raised.

In fact they soon drew off and proceeded to burn the houses on Pointe Verte, a league from Fort St. Louis. As soon as de Brouillan saw them turn in that direction, he suspected their design, and sent a considerable force to dispute their landing; but a heavy rain storm which came up, retarded the soldiers on their march, and when they reached Pointe Verte, all the houses, or, to speak more accurately, all the cabins were consumed by fire. This was the sole fruit derived by Williams from his expedition.¹ On his retreat he was very fortunate in not encountering the Chevalier du Palais, and thus the English and French alike missed their object; the latter in consequence of unforeseen accident, and perhaps from lack of precaution, for what was the good of going to shut himself up in Spaniard Bay, the former for presuming too much on the weakness of the enemy whom they were to attack.

The Gov-
ernor of
New
England
wishes to
have the
Chevalier
de Ville-
bon carried
off.

Both parties met about the same fortune on the coast of Acadia, and for almost the same reason. The new Governor of New England chafed at being prevented by the intestine dissensions which disturbed New York, from attempting once more the conquest of New France. To deliver himself at least from all disquiet in regard to Acadia, he resolved to carry off the Chevalier de Villebon from his fort on St. John's river,² where that commander had stationed himself, while awaiting reinforcements from France, to enable him to establish himself at Port Royal. He sent a ship of 48 guns, with two brigantines there, the three vessels carrying 400 men.

Villebon was far from having means to resist so large a force; yet he would not lose his post without at least making a show of defence; but he did not require to go to much expense for this. He sent a small detachment of

¹ La Hontan, Voyage, i., pp. 242-6, gives his account of this affair, which Charlevoix mainly follows. He makes the English loss six; the French one wounded. Compare Journal du Mouvement que les Ennemis

ont fait, 14-21 Sept., 1692. Canada Doc., III., iii., pp. 146-153; Relation de l'attaque de 5 vaisseaux. Ib., 153-160. Lettre de M. du Brouillan Ib., 160.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 532, 544.