

1692.

expedition to Hudson's Bay; hence it was necessary to think of employment elsewhere for an armament which it would have been a pity to leave idle. The siege of Pemkuit was proposed to d'Iberville and de Bonaventure, who joyfully accepted it. They immediately sailed for Acadia, and after a conference with the Chevalier de Villebon, it was resolved among them that the two royal vessels should besiege it by sea, while the Chevalier attacked it on land at the head of the Indians.

Its failure.

This arrangement adopted, the Poli and Envieux steered to Pemkuit; but the two commandants finding an English ship anchored under the guns of the fort,¹ and having neglected the precaution of taking a coast pilot on board, or finding none, they deemed it imprudent to go into action on a coast which they did not know. They accordingly had to return without doing anything, which greatly displeased the Indians, who had flocked there in great numbers, in the hope of being soon delivered from a neighbor who incommoded them greatly.²

Men were astonished, that d'Iberville, never suspected of a lack of either zeal or bravery, did not make every effort to come with honor out of an expedition on which he had seemed to offer himself so cordially, and those envious of his glory seized on this affair; but it is very probable that he had reckoned on surprising Pemkuit, and had not taken proper measures for carrying it by storm. It was afterwards ascertained that what saved the fort, was the information given to the English commandant by two soldiers, deserters, of the preparations making against him at Quebec, and that the desertion of these two rene-

¹ Maj. Church was then at Pemquid rebuilding the fort, and mentions a man of war as there at the time, although he gives no name. Church's Indian War, ii., p. 86. He makes no allusion to the appearance of the French vessels.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 544, 552, 555. The Canada Documents contain only one document of Villebon, d'Iberville, and de Bonaventure in regard to ransoming some women and children held as hostages by the English. Series III., vol. i., p. 219.