

1693.

New
tidings
of a great
English
expedition
against
Canada.

At last, the bad roads and the want of provisions having compelled them to disband, a large number of prisoners escaped, and only sixty-four were brought into Montreal. It was on the 17th of March, that the fragments of this victorious army reached Montreal, to announce, on the statement of some of their prisoners, that the English were to descend on Montreal in the Spring, to the number of three thousand, while a fleet of the same nation, also carrying three thousand soldiers, was to lay siege to Quebec.

This was the third time within two years, that these threats had been made; but to all appearance, this one might be carried out. D'Iberville had announced the same thing from Acadia; he added that the two soldiers, who had deserted from Quebec the year before, and who had been dispatched by the Governor of New England to assassinate the Baron de St. Castin, had just been taken, and that it was known from their depositions that the Chevalier Nelson had sent to General Phibs a detailed account of the actual condition of the Capital.¹

This intelligence led de Frontenac to believe that he ought not to lose a moment in fortifying that place,² as well as repairing forts Chambly and Sorel. He even sent orders to Montreal, to throw up some intrenchments there.³

tions of the French at Canada, pp. 15-27. He admits the three attacks of the French, but not the success of the last. He gives his own loss, four whites, four Indians killed; 14 wounded; and makes the French loss at least, 27 killed, 26 wounded. He represents the Mohawks as not pursuing vigorously, fearing that the French would kill the prisoners. On the first intelligence, Fletcher hastened up to Albany with troops. N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 14; Beyard and Lodowick, pp. 7-8. Colden's Hist. Five Nations, 2nd Edition, pp. 146-7, follows Schuyler's report, but censures him for not demanding the surrender of the French. Smith in his History of New York, pp. 81-2,

professes to follow Colden and Charlevoix. Fletcher, N. Y. Col. Doc. iv., p. 41, makes the total French loss on the expedition 80, and 33 wounded.

¹ De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 175. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 552.

² The Chevalier de Beaucour, reduced captain and naval ensign, was the engineer at Quebec. De la Potherie, p. 175-6. Relation, 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 561. Ante, p. 217.

³ A fort with four bastions, and a ditch, was thrown up on a hill commanding the town. *Ib.*, p. 178. The Chevalier St. Jean commanded at Sorel, and Desbergères at Chambly *Ib.* p. 178