

learned that the Governor of Montreal was making great preparations to come and attack them, and they already knew, or soon learned, that the English no longer thought of besieging Quebec. Hence, they were afraid of having to encounter the whole power of the French, and saw that if they did not wish their retreat cut off, they must not defer it an instant. In fact at Quebec, they no longer felt any dread of the English, and the eight hundred Iroquois were not then enough to alarm the colony.

1693.

They return without doing anything.

The intelligence received of the powerful armament preparing at Boston, was, nevertheless, very well founded; but the rumor that these preparations were intended for New France, had been spread by the English only to hold that colony in check, deprive the Count de Frontenac of any idea of attempting to disturb them at home, and conceal more effectually their real design.¹ The three ships which had just arrived at Quebec, had, on their way, fallen in with a small vessel dispatched to France by the Count de Blenac, Governor-General of the French West Indies, which informed them that Martinique had been attacked by fifty vessels, some from Old, and some from New England.² Nor did the three thousand men who were to make an irruption in the direction of Montreal, make their appearance. Thus, the harvest was gathered with great tranquillity, the crop was abundant, and the famine, which had begun to be felt keenly, ceased at once.

What became of the fleet that menaced Canada.

To complete their happiness, the fourth of August beheld the arrival at Montreal of two hundred canoes loaded with peltries, under the direction of the Sieur d'Argenteuil. This great convoy brought eighty thousand francs worth of beaver, and the principal chiefs of the Nations of

Arrival of a great convoy of furs at Montreal.

¹ Relation, &c., 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix. pp. 560-8; De la Potherie, ii., pp. 179-184.

² This fleet, under Sir Francis Wheeler, was to reduce Martinique during the winter, and then, rein-

forced by New England, conquer Acadia and Canada. Blaythwait to Mather, Feb. 20, 1693, in Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., ii., p. 70, n. See N. Y. Col. Doc., iv., p. 36, 55. As to its fate, see post p. 244.