

1693.

The Eng-
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pelled to
retire in
disorder
from
before
Martinique

The news from Acadia was more consoling. It notified the general, that fifteen men of war of the fleet that had attacked Martinique, had arrived at Boston; that they seemed in very bad trim; having suffered terribly from the plague, and that they were subjected to quarantine; that the English had, according to the rumors, lost six thousand men in this unlucky expedition, besides a great number of deserters, and that two of their largest ships had been sunk by the guns of Count de Blenac who acquired great glory indeed, on this occasion.¹

The Chevalier de Villebon, who sent this information to the Count de Frontenac, added, that General Phibs had said that if his fleet had not come back so shattered, he would yet have had time to take Quebec; and that after the crews were rested a little, he would send several vessels to cruise off the mouth of the Saint Lawrence; the two Frenchmen who escaped from Boston prisons, had assured him that the same general was preparing to come and attack him in his fort of St. John's river, at the head of eight hundred men; but that he did not fear him. It was, however, fortunate that this news proved false, or that Phibs had changed his mind, for he was in no position to make a defence.²

Towards the end of September, Tareha returned to Quebec, agreeably to the promise he had given, and he brought an Oneida woman, impelled to make the journey, from the mere desire of beholding the Count de Frontenac, of whom she had heard such great things. It was not quite the Queen of Sheba, but the Iroquois woman was animat-

¹ Relation, &c., 1692-3. N. Y. Col. Doc. ix., p. 571. The expedition was commanded by Sir Francis Wheeler; he landed 3000 men, who were repulsed by Capt. Collet and Count de Blenac, and after losing five or six killed, and 300 prisoners, with arms, ammunition, and baggage, shamefully retreated, and re-embarked. Jefferys' French Dominions, II., p. 143. De la Potherie, iii., p. 188, makes their loss 300 men, and two ships. Wheeler reached Boston, June 11, O. S., having buried 1300 out of 2100 sailors, and 1800 out of 2400 soldiers. The distemper spread in Boston. Hutchinson, Hist. Mass., ii., p. 71.

² De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iii., p. 188. Relation, &c., N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 571.