

1695.

utterly men, who could inspire fear, and they, willing on any terms to rescue their kinsmen from the hands of the English, fully resolved, after succeeding in this, to avenge the blood of those butchered. But learning that the English while negotiating were actually taking steps to surprise them, they flew to arms.

They resolve on vengeance.

They were nevertheless still convinced that their enemies were masters at sea, and that the French durst not appear before them. This consideration arrested them; but the arrival of a royal vessel¹ commanded by de Bonaventure, who made several captures on the neighboring coast, and the presents which that officer handed them in his Majesty's name, disabused them, and made them resolve to do the English all the injury they could. We shall see in the following book how they carried this out.

Towards the close of the year there was every reason to believe that a considerable armament was preparing in England and at Boston, intended for Newfoundland. Placentia was in a wretched position, and de Frontenac conjointly with de Champigny represented to the Minister that the loss of that place would entail great embarrassment in the negotiations for peace which were likely to commence soon.

Frontenac and Champigny propose to attack Boston.

These gentlemen then proposed that in the spring ten or twelve men of war should leave the ports of France to engage the English squadron, which was to go to sea about the same time, and then proceed to capture Boston. They represented that that city carried on an extensive trade, and that once masters of it, we would absolutely control all the fisheries. This was a very fine project, and more easy to be carried out than was supposed in France; but the King had other views, and men were not as well informed in France as they were in Canada, of the importance of weakening the English power on the continent of North America.

¹ The *Envieux* at Pentagouet, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 617, De la Poetherie, iv., p. 47. He engaged the Sorlings, Capt. Eams, at the mouth of the St. John's, and handled it so roughly that Eams was glad to escape to Boston. Hutchinson, *History of Massachusetts*, p. 87.