

avenged us, at the expense of the English, for all the injury that their allies had done us at their instigation. 1689.

In the first days of May, information reached Quebec through two Canadians, who had set out on the 5th of January, in snowshoes, from Fort St. Louis, at the head of Hudson's Bay, that d'Iberville had arrived there in the month of October previous; that la Ferté, his lieutenant, having, 30 leagues from Port Nelson, met the Governor of New Savannah, a place situated on the western shore of the bay,¹ had taken him prisoner, seized his papers, and found among them letters from the directors of the London Company, containing orders to proclaim the Prince and Princess of Orange, king and queen of Great Britain, in the bay, which, this company pretended, belonged wholly to the English crown.²

This pretension, so at variance with what had been agreed upon between Louis XIV. and James II., was soon supported by two ships, that appeared in sight of Fort St. Anne,³ to which d'Iberville had just proceeded. One of these ships had eighteen guns and four pedereros; the other a like number of pedereros and ten cannon: they were both well loaded with arms, ammunition, and supplies, and their crews amounted in all to eighty-three men, among whom there were eleven pilots of twelve whom the English Admiralty maintained for Hudson's Bay. Nor did they flatter themselves with any thing short of the expulsion of the French from all the posts they occupied.

Yet they did not at first dare to attack with open force, although d'Iberville had but few men with him; and even after the first hostilities, which were not to their advantage, they proposed terms that d'Iberville did not think it his duty to reject; but, as he knew the foe with whom he had to deal, he kept on his guard, and it was well he

¹ On the river Kofachouc. De la Potherie, i., p. 170; or des Saintes Huiles, ib., 164. This author omits all reference to d'Iberville's operations at Hudson's Bay in 1688.

² Canada Documents, II., v., p. 53.

³ Quichychouan. Canada Doc., II., v., p. 53.