

1703. the fort without losing a man, capturing five habitations and three small vessels.

He could not, however, prevent a brigantine from escaping to notify two men-of-war, anchored off the St. Pierre islands.¹ These appeared before Forillon, before our gallant men had withdrawn; but Amariton still had time to burn his three prizes and take to the woods. The English at once sent three hundred men in pursuit, and two armed sloops, which overtook them at Fremouse. Fear then seized his little troop, which disbanded: only ten or twelve stood by him, and with these he fought so well, that he could not be routed, and effected his retreat safely to Placentia.²

Ineffectual
English
attempt on
Placentia.

The inaction of the English as to Newfoundland, rather surprised them in Canada; but they were apparently ignorant at Quebec, and even at Placentia only knew in general the English project to capture that port, a project which failed by the fault of the officer sent to carry it out. He was one Graydon,³ and his instructions required him to conduct to the English colonies⁴ a squadron given him in England; there to call out all the militia and convey them to Newfoundland to besiege Placentia. The expedition was fitted out with great secrecy; but before the squadron set sail, the secret got wind. It seems even that the blame of this was laid on Graydon; who was, it was asserted, ill-affected to government.

He had also been instructed not to deviate from his route, in order to give chase to any hostile vessel whatever, and on this point he carried his obedience further, perhaps, than was desired. Having discovered four French men-of-war making for Brest, and apparently not in a condition to

¹ This was a squadron under Capt. Sir John Leake which sailed June 24, reached Bay of Bulls Aug. 27, O. S.; destroyed Trepassey, St. Mary's, Colinet, St. Laurent and St. Pierre, and took in all 29 sail, remaining on the coast till October. Lediard, Naval History of England, p. 759. Pedley's Newfoundland, p. 42.—

Subcase to the minister, Oct. 21, 1703. Canada Doc., III. iv., p. 464.

² Journal de la Campagne d'Amariton, ib. p. 438-444. Amariton, ensign in 1692, lieutenant, 1702, was still in service in 1717. Daniel, ii., p. 82.

³ Vice Admiral Graydon. Lediard, Naval History, 1735, pp. 769, 770.

⁴ West Indies.