

make a vigorous defence, he sent indeed to reconnoitre them, but hearing some cannonading, gave the signal for recall, and continued his route. This was subsequently known to have been Ducasse's squadron, returning from Carthagena and several other American ports, loaded with specie, amounting, it was said, to four million pieces of eight.

1704.

On arriving in the English colony,¹ Graydon, according to an English historian,² acted in a manner to give the idea that he came rather to spread terror than for the Queen's service. He at last set out for Placentia with all the forces that he had collected,³ but he found the French in such a good posture, that he retired without even making a show of attacking the place.⁴ Of this attempt I find nothing in any French document, manuscript or printed.⁵

In spite of the slight successes just mentioned, which had no advantage beyond impressing the Indians with our superiority over the English, de Vaudreuil was not without disquiet. The Hurons, who had removed from Michilimackinac to Detroit, and whose chief, called by the French Quarante Sols, was a bad man, long under the suspicion of our commandants, quite openly displayed their inclination for the English.⁶

Our allies seem ill-disposed.

The Ottawas, a part of whom also had come to Detroit, and the Miamis, wished to renew the war against the Cantons. The former were even so bold as to attack, under the cannon of Cataracouy, a troop of Iroquois unsuspecting of anything, killing several.⁷ On the other hand, Pitre

¹ Barbadoes and Jamaica.

Oct. 22. *Ib.*, 770.

² Burnet, *History of his Own Time*, v., p. 157-8, condemns Graydon, as does Lediard, *Naval History of England*, 1735, pp. 770, &c.

³ Costebelle to the Minister, Oct. 25, 1704, gives no detail, but in Dec. he asked two men-of-war to prevent English attacks. *Canada Doc.*, III., iv., pp. 508, 512.

³ He arrived off Cape Pine, New foundland, Aug. 2, and remained off Placentia till Sept. 24. Lediard, p. 769.

⁶ Vaudreuil to Beauharnais, Nov. 16, 1704. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 760.

⁴ He held a council of war, and the foggy weather and strength of the place were deemed insuperable difficulties. He reached England,

⁷ Vaudreuil and Beauharnais to same, Nov. 17, 1704. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 761. The Ottawa chief was Companise.