

was the stronger; but the Abénaquis continued to ravage New England, Dudley not wishing or not daring to accept the same neutrality when proposed to him for that province.¹ The cries of the colonists who could not till their lands, or daily beheld them ravaged by the Indians, troubled him greatly, and he believed the best means to arrest hostilities which provoked these cries, was to expel the French utterly from Acadia.²

1707.

 New attempt of the English on Acadia.

On this then he resolved, and made his preparations with equal secrecy and diligence,³ so that they had scarcely anything more than suspicions of this design at Port Royal, when, on the 6th of June, twenty-four English vessels, the largest of 50 guns,⁴ appeared at the mouth of the basin. Mr. de Subercase had a picket guard of fifteen men there, who had just time to get off under cover of the woods, and before they reached the fort, the enemy's fleet was perceived coming to anchor within a league of the works.

The next day it landed fifteen hundred men a league lower down on the side where the fort was, and five hundred on the river side.⁵ This excited such alarm that the Governor had great difficulty in rallying his garrison. He succeeded however by displaying great confidence himself, and then gave orders to delay the enemy as long as possible in the woods, there being breaches in the fort to be repaired. There seems indeed a sort of fatality attached to Port Royal, that its Governors, even the most active and vigilant, should always be found unprepared.

¹ See note ante, p. 181.

² Berwick's victory over the English and Spanish at Almansa, Ap'l 25, 1707, prevented a force being sent from Europe under General Maccartney to reduce Acadia. Hutchinson, ii., p. 150.

³ New Hampshire and Rhode Island joined Massachusetts, which alone sent 1000 men, (Hutchinson, ii., pp. 150-1,) Col. Wainwright's regiment of the red and Col. Hilton's of the blue. Penhallow, p. 50.

⁴ Hutchinson and Penhallow mention but two, the Deptford, man-of-

war, Capt. Stukeley, and the Province Galley, Capt. Southack. They sailed from Nantasket May 13. O. S. (Penhallow has March,) with 23 transports; and arrived off Port Royal May 26 (June 6, N. S.) "There was an Army of as Likely Men as can be Imagined, the best part of Two Thousand of them." Deplorable State of New England, p. 34.

⁵ Hutchinson, ii., p. 151, says: 700 men on the harbor side under Col. March, 300 on the other side under Col. Appleton.