

1709. reverse in Newfoundland, which completely destroyed their prestige in the minds of all the tribes on this continent.

Projected expedition in Newfoundland.

I have already observed that the centre and stores of all the English settlements on that island, were on St. John's Bay. De Saint Ovide, King's Lieutenant at Placentia, and nephew of Mr. de Brouillan,¹ the former Governor, proposed to Mr. de Costebelle, the actual Governor, to reduce it, adding that he would do so at his own expense. His project having been approved, he collected a hundred and twenty-five men, Indians, colonists and sailors, who were joined by twenty soldiers recently arrived from Acadia, under the command of the Sieur Renou, lieutenant; de Costebelle gave him also twenty-four men from his garrison, commanded by a lieutenant; and de la Ronde, already distinguished in the defence of Port Royal, offered to go as a mere volunteer.²

The shortest way was to go by sea, and this was the plan of the commandant of the expedition; but having been detained by headwinds till December 14th, he would wait no longer, and began his march over the snow.³ On the 20th he reached the head of St. Mary's Bay, whither two double sloops had been sent by de Costebelle to enable our men to cross an arm of the sea, four or five leagues broad, thus saving them two days very severe marching; profiting by this, they arrived, on the last day of the year, within five leagues of St. John without being discovered; but not without experiencing much contradiction from persons who wished ill to St. Ovide, and who seemed to have chosen to come only to thwart his expedition.

Attack and capture of St. John.

As they could succeed only by surprise, they now, before proceeding further, prepared all needed to attack on arriving. This done with incredible celerity, the commandant, the next morning (Jan. 1st), two hours before day, pushed on in a clear moonlight to the head of St.

¹ Subsequently Governor of Isle da Documents, III. v., page 841. Royale or Cape Breton. (*Charlevoix.*) ² He set out the 13th. Canada

³ The whole force was 164. Can- Doc., III. v., p. 842.