

1709.

mounted, four mortars for bombshells, twenty for grenades and a garrison of over a hundred men, commanded by a very brave officer.<sup>1</sup> The other had six hundred colonists well intrenched, ready to come to the succor of the first fort, but a subterranean door by which they expected to pass when occasion required, was found so well closed that it could not be forced open in time. A third and smaller fort still remained at the entrance of the port, but on the other side. De St. Ovide sent to summon it, and the Commandant asked twenty-four hours to reply: this was granted, and at the expiration of that time, although he had eighty men in a strong work, provisions for several months, quite a good supply of artillery, large cannon and one bomb mortar, as well as a bomb-proof vault, he surrendered.

After taking it, de St. Ovide sends a courier to Placentia and a ship to France.

As soon as St. Ovide was in possession of St. John, he dispatched a messenger to inform de Costebelle of the success of his enterprise. Learning then that some of the English had escaped to Belle-Isle, which is only five leagues from St. John; that they had found a ship there and had embarked for England, he deemed it expedient to let the court of France learn what had been achieved, as early as that of London—as moreover he was desirous of receiving orders from France as to his further course: he accordingly ordered Despensens to take a small vessel then lying in the harbor of St. John and sail at once.<sup>2</sup>

This step offended the Governor of Placentia, who was ignorant of the departure of the three Englishmen for Europe, and who, being convinced that the capture of St. John was unknown in England, supposed that vessels would sail as usual for that port, and be easily captured by him. This was at least his first reflection, or the pretext he alleged for censuring his King's Lieutenant. He then changed his mind, and decided that it was useless to consult the court as to the retention of St. John, which he deemed impossible without leaving Placentia defenceless,

<sup>1</sup> Canada Doc., III. v., p. 875.

<sup>2</sup> Canada Documents, III. v., p. 844.