

that place having for a year been menaced with a siege. He moreover judged that the King was disinclined to send him men enough, both to defend his own fort, and maintain himself in a distant port, as difficult to guard as St. John.

1709.

He accordingly ordered St. Ovide to demolish the forts and return to Placentia at the latest by the end of March. He sent him a frigate to carry the Governor, engineer and garrison of these same forts, with the munitions of war, of which large quantities were found, a party of three hundred English having been on the point of marching to surprise Placentia.¹ The prisoners and property that could not be put on board the frigate were offered for ransom; and Mr. de St. Ovide, who asked only one hundred men to hold his conquest, and reduce completely all the eastern shore of Newfoundland, not only had the mortification of seeing himself forced to abandon it all, but also of learning that the court, after first sharing the opinion of the Governor of Placentia, had returned to his when it was too late.

St. John is abandoned.

The capture of St. John was not yet known at Quebec when tidings reached it from several quarters, that a large force was preparing at Boston, which was to be supported by a squadron from England, to attack Canada, and that an army of two thousand men was assembling in New York, which was first to seize Chambly and then fall upon Montreal, which is only five leagues distant.² More than a year before, Father de Mareuil,³ missionary at Onondaga, had informed the Governor-General that the Iroquois

De Vandreuil deceived by an Iroquois.

¹ Canada Documents, III. v., p. 852. The English Governor of St. John's was sent to Quebec. Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu*, p. 448-451. Pedley, *Hist. Newfoundland*, pp. 44-5, is very vague, giving no details, and not even the name of the English Commandant.

² See N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 815, 817, 824.

³ He died in 1742, at the College

of Louis le Grand. *Charlevoix*. See his letter, May 24, 1708. N. Y. C. D., ix., p. 815. The order for his seizure was given, June 29, 1709. Calendar, N. Y. MSS. Eng., p. 365. Although under Bellomont's penal law he was subject to imprisonment for life, the N. Y. Assembly made provision for his decent maintenance. *Journal of the Assembly*. *Hist. Catholic Missions*, p. 331.