

On the 10th of May, Vesche,¹ who in 1705 had sounded all the difficult passages in the Saint Lawrence, under pretext of coming to Quebec to treat for an exchange of prisoners, arrived from England at Boston, and thence posted to New York to press the raising of the troops intended to operate against Montreal. This was soon known in the latter city, as well as the fact that Vesche had presented to Queen Anne a very full memoir to show how easily Canada could be reduced, and the advantage of the conquest to England.

It was added that her Britannic Majesty had accepted his project, and promised him, in case of success, the governorship of New France; that she was arming, in her ports, ten large ships, and ten smaller; that this fleet was to carry six thousand regulars, to be commanded by Maccardi, a creature of the Duke of Marlborough; that two thousand English and as many Indians were to attack the district of Montreal; Chicot River, two leagues from Lake Champlain, having been assigned as the rendezvous, and that their canoes and batteaux were to be built there so as to descend to Chambly.²

1710.

Preparations of the English to attack the colony.

¹ Samuel Vetch, son of a minister at Edinburgh, was in 1698 connected with the Scots settlement at Darien. In 1700 he came to New York and married into the Livingston family. In 1701 he, apparently in violation of both French and English laws, sent the sloop *Mary*, with a cargo, to Quebec, but from subsequent revelations, probably with a view to study the river St. Lawrence. In 1705 Gov. Dudley sent him to Quebec to propose an exchange of prisoners, and he actually sounded the river at various parts. Ante, p. 176. In 1708 his plan for subjugating Canada was approved. In 1710 he accompanied Nicholson's Port Royal expedition as Adjutant-General, and was made Governor of Nova Scotia, retaining the office till 1714. Haliburton, i.,

93. Before 1719 he returned to England, where he died, April 30, 1732. O'Callaghan, *Voyage of the Sloop Mary*, pp. xi-xvi.

² Col. Vetch was to command a squadron of five ships to be at Boston in May. Five regiments were to come from England, to be joined by 1200 men from Massachusetts and Rhode Island to attack Quebec, while 1500 men from the colonies south of Rhode Island, were to attack Montreal. Lord Lovelace was to appoint the general officer, and as he died, Ingoldsby named Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson. Hutchinson, *Hist. of Mass.*, ii., p. 161. The whole thing miscarried; the fleet having been ordered to Portugal; but this was not known, and the New England troops waited till October. *Ib.*