

1710.

De
Subercase's
plan for
defending
Acadia.

Although the buccaneers had disappeared from the Acadian coast, the Bostoneers could feel no security against their return, and saw what injury those men could do their commerce, by the ease with which they could always take refuge in the ports of Acadia. On the other hand, the ravages which the Abénaquis and Canadians continued to make in New England, had roused the country people to fury.¹ At last Dudley and the Council at Boston, learning de Subercase's project, had no doubt but that he would effect it in time, if the peace left France in possession of Acadia, the inevitable result of which would be, that the English would entirely lose the liberty of conducting fisheries in that sea.

The
English
resolve to
take Acadia
at any cost.

Strange
conduct of
de
Subercase.

All these considerations induced the English court to expel the French from Port Royal, if it required all the forces of the English colonies, and even part of those in England. At this juncture there was something inexplicable in de Subercase's conduct. He had long been warned of the storm gathering against him, compared with which all he had hitherto sustained were but mere preludes. He incessantly appealed to de Vaudreuil and de Pontchartrain for aid. The former sent him some soldiers and officers; a reinforcement intended for Quebec, entered his harbor, which he was authorized to use as long as he deemed necessary; yet in the moment of greatest danger he sent off this reinforcement and the auxiliaries from Quebec, with loud complaints of the officers, who in turn complained as loudly of him.²

His own garrison and the settlers in Acadia were not more favorably disposed towards him, and certainly, if the English had been aware of the real position of affairs at Port Royal, they might have spared half the expense

¹ After the destruction of Haverhill Aug. 29, 1708, O. S., the Abénaquis in Maine committed no ravages and actually proposed peace. Williamson's Maine, ii., p. 57-8. For the attacks from Canada on Deerfield, June 22, 1709; Exeter, May 6; see Penhallow's Indian Wars, pp. 55-6.

² Vaudreuil to Pontchartrain, Oct. 31, 1710. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 848-9. Same to same, Ap'l 25, 1711. Ib. p. 853.