

1710.

one marching overland,¹ the other embarking on three sloops, all under Gaspar Bertrand, a brave settler of Placentia, already distinguished on several occasions. The two detachments used such precautions and maintained such order on their route, that they reached Trinity Bay, quite near Carbonniere, undiscovered.

There they found the Queen's frigate *Valeur*, of 30 guns, and a crew of one hundred and thirty men, which had convoyed in a fleet of merchantmen. The French sloops, manned by twenty-five men each, boarded it in broad day. Bertrand was the first on board, and was so well supported, that, after killing the English captain, and putting all the officers hors de combat, he drove the crew between decks. They defended themselves stoutly, and unfortunately the French commandant was killed. Dacarette, a very resolute young man, took his place, and at last forced the English to surrender.²

A moment after, two cruisers of the same nation, one of 22 guns, the other of 18, approached the frigate and began to cannonade the French on both sides. The latter, partly discouraged by Bertrand's death, could not nerve themselves for a new fight, and all that Dacarette could do to avoid risking an action with such unequal force and discouraged men, was to cut his cables, hoist sail and leave the bay, favored by a wind which soon bore him out of sight of the two cruisers. Then the detachment on land, seeing no prospect of uniting with Dacarette's party, fell on the settlement, plundered the houses, and returned loaded with plunder to Placentia, where the sloops soon followed with their prize.³

laghan, *Voyage of Sloop Mary*, p. xvi. Haliburton, i., p. 88. The capture of the place cost the English in all only 40 or 41 men. *Ib.* p. 87. See Vaudreuil's letter on de Subercase. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 853-5.

¹ Under the Sieur de Bellestre. Costebelle to Pontchartrain, Aug. 7, 1710. Canada Doc., III. v., p. 963.

² St. Ovide de Brouillan to the

minister, Sept. 23, 1710. De Costebelle to same, Sept. 30. Canada Doc., III. v., p. 965, 968. Lediard, *Naval History*, p. 848, admits the surprise and capture of the *Valeur*, but says the English took nine French ships off Newfoundland in 1710.

³ The *Valeur* was fitted out for a cruise under St. Ovide de Brouillan.