

1696.

been so often the dupes, or of the want of forecast, which almost always reduced them to a want of actual necessities. The least gleam of hope of delivering their brethren from a slavery whose harshness they knew, sufficed to efface from their memory the snares so often set with this bait, and there was ground to fear that they would at last make terms with an enemy, from whom they always forgot that they had nothing to hope, and whom they should never cease to fear.

Iberville
and Bona-
venture in
Acadia.

This brought the king's council to resolve to deliver them from neighbors, who could not fail in time to prove their ruin, do what they would. They were convinced that on their preservation depended that of Acadia, and all its dependencies. Messrs. d'Iberville and de Bonaventure, commissioned as I have said, by the king to attack Pemkuit, arrived June 26th, at Spaniard Bay: there they found letters from the Chevalier de Villebon, informing them that three English ships awaited them at the mouth of the St. John's; accordingly, on the 4th of May they sailed out to meet them.¹

They take
an English
ship.

They came up with them on the 14th, and d'Iberville having dismasted the Newport, of 24 guns, captured it without losing a man.² The other two escaped under cover of a dense fog that suddenly rose. Fifty Micmaks whom d'Iberville had taken aboard at Spaniard Bay contributed greatly to his victory. The next day the two French ships approached St. John's River, where the Chevalier de Villebon awaited them with fifty Indians; they remained there till Aug. 2nd, and landed the munitions they had brought for Fort Naxoat, which had replaced Fort Jemset. The fifty Indians who accompanied

¹ Baudouin, Journal, Canada Doc. II., viii., p. 33; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 558. The three vessels were the Sorlings, Capt. Eames, Newport, Capt. Paxton, and the Province tender. Hutchinson, History of Massachusetts, ii., p. 87-8, Church's Indian Wars, ii., p. 99n.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 658, iv.,

p. 199. She carried 80 men, and lost her topmast. The Sorlings escaped in a fog. It had been defeated before in 1695. De la Potherie, begins with d'Iberville's operations after he proceeded to Newfoundland, and gives no details as to his operations in Acadia. Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., i., p. 24.