

1711.

dians and Indians, had sworn not to abandon their post but with their lives; when, on the 25th at eight o'clock in the evening, a colonist came in to report, that on the 9th he had seen, from Matanes, ninety or ninety-six sails, bearing the English flag. On this, each one took his post.

A few days later, some Gaspé fishermen reported that they had counted eighty-four ships descending the river, and moving as if to put in at Gaspé.<sup>1</sup> At last, on the 7th of October, de Beaumont, commanding the *Heros*, anchored before Quebec, and stated that he had met no vessel on the north shore, which he had almost always followed; and another ship, which had put in at Gaspé, and followed the southern route, arrived a few days later, declaring that it had seen nothing.<sup>2</sup>

Retreat of  
the land  
army.

Such positive intelligence induced the Governor-General at once to send back de Ramezay to Montreal with six hundred men, whom that governor had brought him, of the militia of his district: he himself followed close with six hundred soldiers, who, reinforcing the troops that had been left under the command of the Baron of Longueuil, to defend the head of the colony, formed an army of three thousand men, which he placed in camp near Chambly.<sup>3</sup> Here he intended to await General Nicholson, on the march, as he knew, towards that point; but he soon learned that Nicholson's army, which contained many Iroquois, had fallen back, and Rouville was at once detached with two hundred men to obtain more definite intelligence.

That officer pushed on without meeting any one beyond the great Carrying Place on the route to Albany, and was there met by three Frenchmen whom de Vaudreuil had sent to that city in June, one of his brothers being of the number.<sup>4</sup> They had been set at liberty after Nicholson's return, and informed Rouville that the consternation at Albany had been excessive, when news came of the disaster to the English fleet, a disaster still unknown in the

<sup>1</sup> Compare Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu de Quebec*, p. 476. Beaumont was brother of Beauhar- nois, the Intendant.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.* p. 480.

<sup>3</sup> *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu*, p. 477. Faillon, *Vie de M'le le Ber*.

<sup>4</sup> *N. Y. MSS.*, Vol. 55. p. 31.