

French colony. They added that Nicholson, on reaching that city, had put all his wagons under cover and locked up all the arms in the magazines, announcing his intention of employing them the next year, as well as his hope that the Queen would send greater forces than she had yet done: that the English and the Iroquois had had several disputes, and seemed to be irreconcilably involved.

1712.

There being now no doubt of the retreat of the two English expeditions that were to attack New France, simultaneously by sea and land, and divide its forces, by occupying them at the two extremities of the colony, and it being reported that the fleet had been wrecked in the St. Lawrence, near the Seven Islands, de Vaudreuil dispatched several barques in that direction. There they found the wrecks of eight large vessels, from which the cannon and best articles had been removed, and nearly three thousand persons drowned, and their bodies lying along the shore.<sup>1</sup>

Wreck of  
the English  
fleet.

They recognized among them, two whole companies of the Queen's Guards, distinguished by their red coats, and several Scotch families, intended as settlers in Canada;<sup>2</sup> but although the rest of the fleet had lain at anchor for several days at the same spot to remove the contents of the ships wrecked, the French, nevertheless, gathered quite a large booty.<sup>3</sup> A great many copies of a

<sup>1</sup> These returned in June, 1712, with five boat loads of spoils: they found more than 2000 bodies on the shore, among them seven women, all clasping each others' hands. Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu*, pp. 490-1. The vessels lost were the Isabella Anne Katherine, Bayley, master, and Chatham, Alexander, master, carrying Colonel Windresse's regiment, of which 252 were lost, and only 47 or 8 saved; the Samuel and Anne, Walkup, master; Nathaniel and Elizabeth, Howson, master, and Colchester, Henning, master, carrying Lt.-Gen. Seymour's regiment, of which 302 were lost, and 375 or 8 saved; the

Smyrna merchant, Vernon, master, carrying Kaine's regiment, 200 lost, 30 saved; the Marlborough, Taylor, master, Clayton's regiment, 130 lost, 30 saved, and the Content, a New England ship, 15 men, all saved. Sir Hovenden Walker's Journal, or Full Account of the late Expedition, London, 1720, p. 128. He thus makes the loss of soldiers 884 to 499 saved.

<sup>2</sup> There were Catholic articles found, and commissions dating back to the reign of James II.

<sup>3</sup> It sold for 5,000 livres, and 12,000 livres were obtained for a second lot.