

France, which will always have these two nations as enemies, the one, for fear of being crushed, the other, because they cannot live in peace with us on the same continent. After all, in the manner in which the two great armaments were scattered that were to attack it simultaneously, each with a force superior to any it could bring, the French colony could not but recognize a Providence which watched singularly over its preservation, and which, not satisfied with rescuing it from the greatest danger it had yet run, had enriched it with the spoils of an enemy whom it had not had the pains to conquer; hence they rendered Him most heartfelt thanks.

1711

Wreck of
the English
fleet.

Soon after, they had reason to renew them in regard to the port of Placentia, which that divine Providence preserved by the same way it had employed to save the government of Montreal, that is, by striking its enemies with vertigo. The English fleet, on its way to Quebec, had intercepted letters from de Costebelle, making known his wretched position in Newfoundland, and the necessity of promptly relieving him.¹ After the shipwreck, the commanders of the remaining vessels debated whether or not to go to Placentia and make up for the loss they had just sustained, and they certainly had force enough left to take that place and all the posts dependent on it, but misunderstanding arising between the military and naval officers, they were compelled to renounce the project.²

The only advantage derived by England from the excessive outlay just made, was the preservation of Acadia. The Court of France was exceedingly anxious to recover that province; the repeated efforts of the English to get it into their power, and still more, their exultation on its

Fruitless
efforts to
recover
Acadia.

¹ These letters are given in Sir H. Walker's Journal, pp. 280-299.

² *Ib.* pp. 140-1: Resolution of Council of War, pp. 300-2. Admiral Walker on his way back took possession of Cape Breton in September. Journal, p. 151; after reaching England, his flagship, the *Edgar*, blew

up. In 1715 he was struck off the list of flag officers and deprived of half pay, after having held a commission for 28 years. He then settled in Carolina, but being ill-treated by the government there, removed to Barbadoes. He died in 1735. *Beatson*, Political Index, II. 34.