

1711

conquest, had at last opened the eyes of the French to the greatness of the loss they had sustained, and in this spirit de Pontchartrain wrote to Mr. de Beauharnois, who had succeeded Begon as Intendant of Rochelle and Rochefort.

“I have sufficiently explained to you,” says he, “how important it is to recover that post (Port Royal) before the enemy become solidly planted there. The preservation of all North America, and the fisheries, alike require it; these are two objects which touch me to the quick, and I cannot too strongly urge them (the Governor-General and Intendant of New France) to regard them with the same eyes.”

It was the minister's greatest wish that the Marquis de Vaudreuil should undertake the task with only his own troops and the Canadian militia. On his side, the General, to ensure success, asked only two ships from France, with what men and munitions they could carry; but moderate as this reinforcement was, it was impossible to send it. Still he did not wish to be reproached with not having made an effort when desired, and we have seen the Marquis d'Alognies was on the point of marching with troops to support the Indians and colonists, who were blockading Port Royal when the news of the approach of the English fleet disconcerted his plan.¹

Then the Acadian settlers, seeing no further hope of shaking off the English yoke, were compelled to make terms with the Governor of Port Royal; but they sent to assure the Marquis de Vaudreuil, that necessity alone, and especially the fear of being disturbed in their harvesting, had driven them to this step; that nevertheless, the King would have no subjects more faithful than themselves. De Pontchartrain, informed of their good disposition, turned to another quarter, and ordered Mr. de Beauharnois to induce the Rochelle merchants to form a company strong enough to expel the English from Acadia, and plant there

¹ Vaudreuil to Pontchartrain, Oct. 25, 1711. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., 859.