

two good settlements, one at la Héve, the other at Chedabouctou. 1711.

At the same time and with the same view he sounded the richest traders of St. Malo, Nantes and Bayonne; but the important inducements offered in his Majesty's name, and assured in every way they could desire, failed to find a man willing to lead the enterprise, and all refused to make the advances required for an expedition in which the State alone was to be the gainer.

Nevertheless, while they were discussing in Old and New France the means of recovering Acadia, the project had well nigh been carried out without the slightest intervention of Mr. de Pontchartrain or the Marquis de Vaudreuil. Sixty Englishmen of the garrison of Port Royal, commanded by the major of the fort, an engineer and six other officers, had embarked in canoes to go and burn the houses of the French who had not yet made terms, or who perhaps deferred too long complying with the conditions, as well as to secure their persons. Forty Indians, getting wind of it, undertook to surprise them. Divided into two parties, they marched under cover of the woods, on both sides of the river in which the English were ascending, and proceeded to await them at the passage, in a spot well fitted for an ambuscade. The enemy, utterly unsuspecting, were caught without their having taken any precaution, and the Indians fired so seasonably that not a single man escaped to convey this intelligence to Port Royal.¹

Exploit of an Indian party.

Encouraged by this success, the settlers flew to arms, assembled to the number of five hundred, and set out in June to invest the fort; many Indians joined them, and Mr Gaulin, their missionary, informed de Costebelle, Governor

Port Royal again missed.

¹ Letter of F. Felix Cappe. Aug. 4, 1711, cited N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 858. Costebelle to Pontchartrain, July 24, 1711. (Walker, p. 293.) L'Hermite to same, July 22, 1711. (Ib. p. 297.) The Indians were sent by St. Castin, and commanded by L'Aymalle. Vetch, commandant of the English fort, sent his men out, June 21. One man escaped. Ib. The party was commanded by Capt. Pigeon, a regular officer. Hutchinson, Hist. Mass., ii., p. 181. See Ante, p. 238.