

liver up to him all the French and their allies detained in his prisons. At the same time he started for Pentagoët, where he awaited for some time the reply of the commandant; but as it delayed considerably, and he had not provisions for so large a force, he sent a hundred more men to Boston, and retained only the officers, whom he committed to the care of Mr. de Villieu.

On the 3rd of September he sailed with de Bonaventure and his prize. They had scarcely doubled the islands at the mouth of the Pentagoët (Penobscot) when they perceived seven sail approaching them, and keeping them between the shore and themselves: d'Iberville at once hailed the Sieur de Lauson, who commanded the Newport, which carried the hundred Micmaks taken aboard at Spaniards' Bay and St. John's River, to keep as near him as possible.

The Indians, on their side, who thought as a matter of course that they were to fight, begged that officer to engage the largest of the enemy's vessel sooner than surrender, as they preferred to die arms in hand and after first avenging their death, rather than rot in the dungeons of Boston. Lauson promised to do so; but in the evening the English squadron being very near, d'Iberville tacked, and steered towards the mainland; then, after sailing a league, he ran along the coast towards Mount Desert. On this the English, despairing of overtaking him, or perhaps fearing to approach a coast which they did not know very well, also changed their course and steered for the St. John's.¹

The next morning d'Iberville seeing no more of them, put off to sea, and so ran down to Isle Royale or Cape Breton; this prevented his taking aboard a large number of Indians who were awaiting him at Port de la Héve, and who were to accompany him to Newfoundland. He even

1696.

The two French ships avoid an English squadron.

They arrive at Placentia.

¹ Baudouin, Journal, &c., p. 39-40. This fleet of five vessels was fitted out at Boston, on hearing of the loss of the Newport and the fort. Five hundred men were sent to defend New Hampshire. The Arundel and Orford, men-of-war, with the Sorlings, and a 20 gun ship and fireship, were sent to the Penobscot. Hutchinson, History of Massachusetts, ii., p. 91. They did not go to the St. John, but returned to Boston.