

scattered through all the others, acting there as though they were in a conquered country.

1696.

Several settlers had suspected shrewdly that this would happen, and these had taken refuge in spots where they knew no attempt would be made to follow them: they would not come forth for all that was said on behalf of the English general to reassure them, and they were wise; for that general soon observed the terms as little as his men did; the Indians were actually those who showed most humanity. At the end of nine days there was not an edifice left standing at Beaubassin except some houses and barns from which everything had been carried off, and the church, which was not yet touched. But the English having subsequently perceived a placard on it signed by Mr. de Frontenac, and containing some regulations as to trade, the commandant, on being informed of it, broke out into reproaches against the settlers, threatened to treat them as rebels, ruined them completely, and reduced their church to ashes.

He then presented to them an English document to sign, telling them that it contained only a new declaration, acknowledging themselves subjects of King William, and he added that it would serve as a safeguard against any English who might land on their coast.¹ This done he embarked, and on the 29th of September he hoisted sail for St. John's River, which he reached the same day. An ensign of the garrison of Naxoat, named Chevalier, was on vidette at the mouth of the river, with a detachment of three or four soldiers; he first perceived a brigantine of about 60 tons and the next day was attacked by the English, who had landed unperceived by him.

He made for the woods, and proceeded to notify his commandant of the arrival of the enemy, whose number and force he had been unable to ascertain. This com-

¹ De la Potherie, iii., p. 290. Church's Indian War, ii., p. 113-5, Church in his accounts says nothing but he admits doing the Acadians of Phips' proclamation, nor of his considerable injury. destruction of the church and houses,