

1696.

mandant was the Chevalier de Villebon, who had apparently been released,¹ having shown that he was not a lawful prisoner of war, as he had been arrested while bearing a passport in due form. Two days after Chevalier returned to the sea with two others; but he fell into an ambuscade laid for him by some Indians; he was killed and his two soldiers taken.

They be-
siege Fort
Naxoat.

The latter, from some unknown motive, showed the English several caches of munitions and goods made quite near, and the whole was put on board the ship, which at once sailed for Boston.² They had not gone far before they fell in with a 32 gun-frigate³ and two smaller vessels, commanded by Sikik, an English captain who, by virtue of an order which he bore,⁴ obliged the squadron to return to St. John's River and attack Fort Naxoat. Thus the enemy's force, augmented by three ships and two hundred men, reappeared at the mouth of the St. John's River, when it was supposed to be near Boston.

The Chevalier de Villebon heard of this on the 12th of October from his brother Mr. de Neuville, the youngest of the sons of the Baron de Bekancourt, and who had been sent to ascertain what had become of the Siew Chevalier. He had written the evening before to the Recollect Father Simon, who directed an Indian Mission quite near there, to beg him to induce all his neophytes he could to come and join him, and on the 14th, that religious brought him thirty-six warriors. The next day he sent back Neuville to the sea, and on the 16th, that officer returned to Naxoat, having found the enemy in quite strong force, half a league below Jemset, that is to say, half way between Naxoat and the mouth of the river.

¹ He had not been taken. See ante p. 28. Chevalier lost one killed and one taken, Church's Indian Wars, ii., p. 117.

² Villebon, Journal, Canada Doc., II., viii., p. 1-28, Church's Indian War, ii., p. 119, 117.

³ The Arundel, Captain Kiggins,

with the Province galley, Capt. Southack, and a transport sloop, Capt. Alden. Hutchinson, History of Massachusetts, ii., p. 94. Colonel Hawthorn, of the Council, here superseded Church.

⁴ From Gov. Stoughton.