

posed decamping. Some time after they were perceived loading their boats, and M. de Villebon wished the Indians commanded by de Clignancourt and Baptiste, to cross the river below the fort and fall upon them; but they refused, I know not why: the next day the camp of the besiegers was found abandoned. Neuville was at once detached in pursuit; but after marching three leagues, found them embarked on four vessels of about sixty tons, and descending the river with a favorable wind.¹

1696.

The siege is raised.

He fired on them, to give them the idea that the Indians were in pursuit, and then returned to the fort. In this siege we had only one soldier killed, another had both legs carried off by one of our cannon, and a third was maimed by his gun bursting in his hands. The precipitation with which the English retired, induced the belief, that they did not come off as well. Before embarking they burned two or three houses, and left near the mouth of the river, two settlers whom they had brought from Beaubassin with their wives and children; but no information could be obtained from them as to the enemy's loss.²

While the English were thus severely handled in Acadia, preparations were making to expel them from Newfoundland, where they occupied quite a number of posts, almost all on the east side of the island. They had even very important settlements, with easy communication from one to another by roads opened through the woods. Several of the settlers were very rich, and by their own admission their trade amounted to seventeen millions a year. In a word they constituted a power in Newfoundland which might render them absolute masters of the richest, easiest, and most extensive commerce in the world, and one requiring least outlay, the codfisheries.

Position of the English and French in Newfoundland.

We were, from having taken as good measures, to share

¹ Villebon, Journal de ce qui s'est passé à l'Acadie, Canada, Doc., II., viii., 1-28.

² Hutchinson's Hist. Massachusetts, ii., pp. 98-9. Hathorne's Journal, referred to by Church, in his Indian Wars, seems no longer extant.