

1696. it with them. The colony of Placentia, though lying on one of the finest and most commodious harbors in America, was not to be compared with the meanest of their settlements. A cotemporary author, and eye-witness of what he asserts, declares that the richest of our settlers was not more comfortably lodged than one is on shipboard; that all were reduced there to a ration a day, that is to say, to a sailor's portion; that no one was in a condition to assist the poor, or the sick, and that they had not even taken the trouble to erect an hospital.

The fort at Placentia was none too good, difficulty of approach constituting its main strength, and the whole garrison at the governor's disposal was eighteen soldiers, to whom on an emergency might be added eighty fishermen, both little experienced in war, and not to be depended upon for sudden action.

Character  
of the  
Governor  
of Placentia

Mr. de Brouillan, whom we have already seen repulsing the English before his post, was still governor. He was a brave man, an intelligent and experienced officer; but he had not the tact of winning the attachment either of those under his orders, or of those whom the cod-fishery drew to his district. A desire for accumulating property seldom fails to produce this unfortunate result; it serves at least as a pretext, and gives occasion to accuse of violence and vexations, those who cannot repress or conceal this passion. Unfortunately de Brouillan had at least the reputation of being a grasping and interested man, and the king's service suffered as much as his glory.

As to religion, no one knew over well, whether the English on Newfoundland had one, for in this great number of pretty well settled posts, not a single minister was to be seen. From this resulted such a laxity of morals, that in the misfortunes which we shall see overtaking them, the wisest acknowledged the hand of God pressing heavily

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<sup>1</sup> De Brouillan was made Governor of Placentia in 1690, a Chevalier of St. Louis in 1698, Commandant in Acadia in 1701, Governor in 1702, Daniel, ii., p. 346; he remained in office till his death at Chibouctou Sept. 22, 1705, Canada Doc., III., ii., p. 655. Post 172.