

upon them.¹ There was no abundance and luxury to create such disorders among the French, who most frequently lacked what was absolutely necessary; but for the most part they were not less bereft of spiritual than of temporal aid, and to prompt men to turn to God in necessity and endure misery with becoming Christian patience requires instruction at least in the great principles of Christianity.

1696.

Such was the situation of the two European Colonies, which divided the island of Newfoundland, when Mr. d'Iberville proposed to the court to bring all under the king's jurisdiction. As his Pemquit expedition had detained them longer on the coast of Acadia than he had expected to be there, he did not reach Placentia till the twelfth of September.² Mr. de Brouillan, who according to their agreements was to wait for them there till the end of August, had sailed three days before with the king's ship Pelican, and eight St. Malo vessels, the Count de Thoulouse, the Philippeaux, and the Diamond, three corvettes and two fire-ships, to proceed to attack St. John. This was the English headquarters, and the port where the King of England's vessels generally entered.³

He sets out
to attack
St. John.

Although he had certain information that the English were aware of his project, he did not think it his duty to use dispatch and attack the coast where they were less on their guard, and preferred to await a favorable wind to proceed to St. John. But as he rode ten or twelve leagues outside the harbor, the weather became so bad, and the sea so stormy, that the ships that accompanied him were for a long time driven from him. They rallied at last seven or eight leagues from land, and it was resolved to delay entering the harbor no longer.

He is
unable to
enter.

He was only cannon-shot distant, when he seized a sloop, apparently coming out to observe, and on board he found the Sieur Ites, commandant of an English ship of war

¹ De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique, Sept., i., p. 24, and the l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 52. Hist. Brit. Empire in America, pp.

² Canada Doc., II., viii., p. 41. 141-2, mention also the Vendome

³ De la Potherie, Histoire de (Vendange,) and Harcour.