

1696. called "Le Soldat de Prise."¹ From this officer he learned that there were forty ships at St. John, some carrying from eighteen to thirty-two guns mounted. This information did not produce any change in his plans, and he prepared to land at the entrance of the harbor, at nightfall, but having been carried six leagues south by the tide, in spite of all his efforts to keep his position, his plan failed.

Other currents then took him, without his perceiving it, opposite a bay called Baboul, a corruption of Bayeboul, to which he had two days previously dispatched the Philippeaux and the Comte de Thoulouse to seize that post and capture the Zephyr, an English ship of war, and two merchantmen at anchor there. But these two vessels having failed to approach the land, rejoined Mr. de Brouillan. That governor wished to try whether fortune would not be more propitious to him, and in fact entered the bay under a light wind, which fell entirely while he was manœuvring to attack the Zephyr.

He takes
several
posts.

The fire of five small forts, which he then received, did not prevent his ordering two landing parties, one on the left under his nephew, Mr. de St. Ovide,² and the other on the right under the command of the Sieur de l'Hermite,³ Major of Placentia. Both succeeded; l'Hermite drove the English from two batteries, which galled the French ships considerably; St. Ovide captured two forts into which the captain of the Zephyr had retired with the greatest part of his crew, and a considerable number of settlers who fled to the woods.

¹ Hon. Ambrose Shea represents Newfoundland Archives as devoid of contemporary documents.

² Hist. Brit. Empire, pp. 141-2, says that Cleasby, after the settlers fled, fired the Sapphire and retired to Ferryland with his officers and 35 men, 100 of his crew being taken. He was taken Sept. 21, O. S. The Sapphire blew up with 40 French. Southward of St. John's, at a distance of 6 or 7 leagues is a consider-

able harbor named the Bay of Bulls." Pedley's Newfoundland, p. 75.

³ De St. Ovide was ensign in 1692, lieutenant in 1694, captain in 1696, king's lieutenant at Placentia in 1709, and at Cape Breton in 1714, Daniel, ii., p. 351, and Governor 1720, to 1736, if not longer. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 1034.

⁴ L'Hermite is supposed, by Daniel, to have been lost on the Chameau in 1725.