

in front, while d'Iberville turned to the left, to take them on the flank unprotected by the rock. 1696.

They fought well, but after half an hour's defence, gave way on all sides. D'Iberville, followed by a small number of the most alert Canadians, pursued the fugitives at the point of the sword, and drove them fighting to St. John, which was only three quarters of a league distant.<sup>1</sup> He reached it a quarter of an hour before the army, and in that short time had seized two forts and made thirty-three prisoners. The people of St. John had depended greatly on the eighty-eight men just defeated, and when they saw the French enter the town with the rest, they were seized with such a panic that had d'Iberville had a hundred men with him, he would also have taken by storm a third fort held by two hundred men.

Defeat of a  
body of the  
enemy.

In the action just described, the enemy lost fifty-five men. Mr. de Brouillan did wonders, and had his trumpeter killed by his side : three others of his men were wounded and two Canadians killed. The soldiers of the garrison of Placentia did their duty very well ; but it was remarked that they needed a few campaigns against the Indians in Canada, to learn to cover themselves while uncovering the enemy. This is d'Iberville's reflection in his report on the campaign made to the Count de Pontchartrain.

The army, on entering the town of St. John, perceived a vessel, on which many of the English had taken refuge, crowding sail to leave the port, and it was subsequently ascertained that they had taken aboard the most precious articles from the private houses. The fort, still to be taken, was surrounded by a palisade eight feet high, but was otherwise in a wretched condition. The army encamped in the houses of the town, and a summons was sent to the governor through a woman, one of the prisoners. The governor retained her and gave no answer.

Siege of  
Fort  
St. John.

Concluding that he had determined to defend the place, they sent at once to Bay de Toulle for the mortars, can-

<sup>1</sup> Canada Documents, II., viii., p. 52.