

noitering the fort: but this whole garrison was made up of little more than wretched fishermen, who could scarcely fire a gun, and their commandant was merely a farmer chosen by the ship captains and holding no royal commission. The fort was quite good, but out of everything. The garrison had not supplies for twenty-four hours longer, nor a bit of wood to warm themselves; they had in fact but just thrown themselves into the fort when d'Iberville appeared in the town.¹

1696.

Condition
of the
place.

Still St. John is a very fine harbor, able to hold more than two hundred ships; its entrance is only a gun-shot wide, between two very high mountains, and was defended by a battery of eight pieces. At that time there were reckoned sixty, all well placed on the north side and houses extending half a league along the Grève. The fort just mentioned was only a cannon-shot from the entrance of the port.

Position of
St. John.

The two ships, that had not been able to come in time to relieve the place, on seeing it taken had no alternative but to return to England, as they did at once. On the 2d of December, Montigny was sent with twelve men to Portugaleoue² in Conception Bay, three leagues from St. John, to arrest a great number of fugitives, who were seeking refuge at Carbonniere, and he took thirty. Dougué de Boisbriand, a Canadian gentleman, took even more prisoners at a place called Kirividi,³ three-quarters of a league from St. John, and in a few days the number exceeded a hundred.

Hitherto the two leaders had apparently acted in concert; but when they came to divide the booty their mutual animosity revived, and had well-nigh come to a violent rupture. This new fire having been smothered by prudent mediators, and by the moderation of d'Iberville, the Governor of Placentia proposed to keep St. John and put it under the command of Mr. de Muys. D'Iberville consented, but on condition that no Canadian should remain,

St. John
burned and
abandoned.¹ Canada Documents, II viii., p. 57.³ Kividi in De la Potherie, i., p.² Portugal Cove.