

In this campaign d'Iberville gave striking proofs of his ability, and was at every point where danger was to be met or hardship undergone; next to him came Montigny, generally in the van, and often leaving little to be done by those who followed him. After them, the most distinguished were Boucher de la Perriere, d'Amour de Plaine, Dugué de Boisbriand,¹ all three Canadian gentlemen, and Nescambiouit. There is no doubt, had there been force enough to complete this well-advanced conquest and guard the posts from which the English had been expelled, they would have lost the island of Newfoundland forever; but few men in France then saw how important it was to secure the total possession.

It must be admitted, that if the English have displayed, in establishing their colonies, an ability not seen in any other European nation, they generally take very little precaution to protect them against a surprise or effort on the part of their neighbors. So that had the French had as much perseverance and concerted their measures for preserving their conquests in the New World with judgment equal to the intrepidity and celerity displayed in effecting them, the Crown of England would not perhaps to-day possess an inch of ground on the continent of North America.

The greatest fault then committed by the English in their colonies, was the usually bad selection of those to whom they committed the command either of single posts or whole provinces. They were almost always men of fortune, ignorant of war, never even in service, whose sole merit was their accumulation of wealth by means that did not presuppose qualities necessary to uphold the rank to

1696.

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¹ As to d'Amour, see ante iii. p. 158, iv. p. 40 René Boucher de la Perriere was the eighth son of Pierre Boucher Sieur de Boucherville, author of the "Histoire Veritable," ante, vol. i., p. 80 and still revered as one of the patriarchs of early Canada. René became captain in 1726, and died in

August, 1742. Daniel, i., p. 116. Dugué de Boisbriand was recommended for an ensigncy in the navy in 1695; major at Biloxi, 1699; at Mobile 1716: in Illinois in 1718-22, commanded the colony in Bienville's absence; died in 1736. Daniel, ii., 284-293.