

1697. there were vessels in the English ports, ready to set sail at once, to join a squadron fitting out at Boston to attack Canada. He added that the King wished him to keep a thousand or twelve hundred men to carry out the orders he might receive from his Majesty, in case there was no fear for Quebec. We shall presently see what all this meant.¹

The Iro-
quois renew
hostilities.

The Iroquois, soon perceiving that the French had given up troubling them at home, took the field in all directions. This compelled the Governor of Montreal to multiply the parties which he sent against them, and he thus succeeded in baffling all their plans. Soon after, some prisoners brought in from the neighborhood of New York, told him that it was rumored in that province, sometimes that they were equipping in Europe to proceed to besiege Quebec, sometimes that they were preparing in France to lay siege to Boston. At the same time assurance was received in the capital, that New England was in no condition to undertake anything: that the dearth of provisions was extreme there; that a misunderstanding existed among the heads of the colony, and that although they made some show of threatening Canada, they really were in great fear of the French and were busy fortifying.

The Eng-
lish take
Fort
Bourbon

But at the same time news came that Fort Bourbon had again the preceding autumn fallen into the hands of the English, and that Mr. de Serigny, who had been sent there with reinforcements of men, provisions and munitions, had been unable to reach it. In fact on the second of September, 1696, four English vessels with a bomb ketch appeared in sight of that fort, and had not been two hours at anchor in the roadstead when Messrs. de Serigny and de la Motte Egron also arrived on two ships, the former on the Dragon, belonging to the King, the other on the *Hardi*,² belonging to the Northern Company.³

The odds were too great to risk an action, and the French drew off. Serigny sailed back to France, which he

¹ De la Potherie, iii., p. 286, writes Vincelot.

² N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 608.

³ Jérémie, Relation de la Baye de Hudson, in Voyages au Nord, iii., p. 328. De la Potherie, i. p. 166-7.