

1697.

hand ; and the latter would have enabled him to make an effort to atone for the delay by the gratification of not leaving an Englishman in Newfoundland, a thing he had much at heart. On the other hand it was evident that the court had reckoned on greater expedition on de Serigny's part ; but as already observed, the fitting out of fleets in our ports is always delayed, often to the overthrow of all the plans of our officers.

This appeared from the instructions handed to d'Iberville by his brother. They directed that before proceeding to Hudson's Bay, he should visit St. John's River, to see whether Fort Naxoat needed reinforcement. It had become impossible to fulfill this, and in this view de Brouillan, to whom d'Iberville imparted his instructions, coincided ; for not only was the season too far advanced to undertake two expeditions to points so far distant apart, but the crews of the ships from France were not in a condition to remain so long at sea.

Mr. D'Iberville sails to Hudson's Bay.

It was accordingly resolved to proceed direct to Fort Bourbon, and the squadron, composed of four ships' and a brigantine, set sail on the 8th of July. There was a third order of the court, much easier of execution than the second. This was to cruise some time off the bank of Newfoundland, and d'Iberville did not intend to neglect it ; but he found in that part such dense fogs and winds so favorable for continuing his course, that he deemed it his duty not to swerve from it, and on the 28th he arrived at the mouth of Hudson's Strait.

He loses a vessel in the ice.

He passed it the third of August ; but he then found himself so beset by ice that he was forced to grapple with the largest bergs. The danger of this situation, arose from the severe blows given to the ships by the ice, driven violently on by the currents, putting them in constant danger of perishing. On the 5th the brigantine was crushed between one of these floating shoals and the *Palmier*, Serigny's ship, and this so suddenly that the crew were with difficulty saved, all the rest being lost.

¹ The *Pelican*, 50, d'Iberville ; the *Dugué*, and the *Vespe*, Chartrié. *Jé-Palmier*, 40, Serigny ; the *Profond*, *rémie*, *Relation* &c. p. 329-330.