

On the 28th d'Iberville in the Pelican, a fifty gun ship, 1697. found himself clear of the ice ; but alone and ignorant of the fate of his other ships, which had been hidden by the ice since the 11th. He nevertheless supposed them ahead, as he had heard the firing of cannon the previous night, and sailing to Port Nelson, arrived in sight on the 4th of September. He anchored in the evening quite near Fort Bourbon, and sent his boat ashore with the Sieur de Martigny, his cousin german, to gain information as to the place and the English ships which he had perceived in Hudson's Strait.<sup>1</sup>

He is separated from the rest

About six o'clock the next morning, he discovered three ships three leagues to leeward, tacking to enter the harbor. He made the signals arranged with de Serigny. As they did not reply he had no doubt of their hostile character, and prepared to attack them. To take such a resolution required a bold man indeed. He had scarcely a hundred men in fighting condition, and had to cope with three ships, one of superior force and the other two of 32 guns each.

He engages three English ships.

Notwithstanding this disparity, he bore down on them with an intrepidity that disconcerted them. They awaited him ; the cannonade opened about half past nine in the morning, and was kept up incessantly till one with great vigor on both sides. Meanwhile the Pelican had only one man killed and seventeen wounded. Then d'Iberville, who had kept the weather gage, bore down straight on the two frigates, pouring in several broadsides at close quarters, in order to disable them. At that moment he perceived the third, the Hamshier, coming on with 26 guns in battery on each side, and a crew of 230 men.

He at once proceeded to meet her, all his guns pointed to sink her, ran under her lee, yardarm to yardarm, and having brought his ship to, poured in his broadside. This was done so effectively that the Hamshier, after keeping on at about her own length, went down. D'Iberville at once wore and turned on the Hudson Bay,

Success of this engagement.

<sup>1</sup> Canada Doc, III., viii., pp. 240-2. Jérémie, Relation &c. v. 30, says 5th.