

two ships had suffered greatly in the ice ; nevertheless they repaired expeditiously and gave chase to the English, who were flying before them, and who escaped them only to be beaten by the Pelican alone, in the manner already stated.

1697.

Nothing now preventing his approach to Fort Bourbon, d'Iberville on the morning of the 6th weighed anchor and stood in to the roadstead, where his boat, which had remained ashore since he had sent it to get information, brought him some Indians, who told him that there were only thirty-five men in the fort.

Shipwreck
of d'Iber-
ville.

On hearing this he put a mortar and fifty bombs on the Hudson Bay to begin the attack while awaiting his three other vessels. The next day, seeing the sea run extremely high, a sure sign in the Bay of a coming storm, he left the roadstead, which is not secure, and anchored off shore. His precaution was vain ; the wind, after falling slightly, became more violent than before, the cables of his anchors parted, and in spite of all d'Iberville's efforts to ride it out, and there was not perhaps in the French navy one more skillful in handling a ship, he was driven ashore with his prize at the mouth of the St. Teresa.

This misfortune happened at night, the darkness increas- ing the horror caused by the storm, and prevented them taking measures to save the vessels by running them ashore in a suitable spot, so that before daybreak they opened and filled with water. However, a calm setting in the crew got ashore safe, carrying all needed to besiege Fort Bourbon ; but he had no provisions and could look for none except by taking the fort. D'Iberville accordingly hastened all the preparations for storming it. They had scarcely begun their labors when his three vessels hove in sight and soon after anchored in the roadstead.¹

He is joined
by his
three ships.

They had weathered the storm that wrecked the Pelican and Hudson Bay : but they were much further out, or rather it drove them out, and ceased before they got near

¹ Canada Documents III. viii., pp. de Hudson, pp. 330-1. The latter 242-8 ; Jérémie, Relation de la Baye says 23 men lost.