

the Profond with the Pelican's crew and forty-four prisoners, whom he still retained. He sailed on the 24th of September with the Wesp,<sup>1</sup> and on the 8th of November arrived at Belle-Isle, with scarcely a man on either ship not sick with the scurvy.

1697.

D'Iberville  
returns to  
France.

But the capture of Fort Bourbon, although it long assured to the French the possession of all the north of Canada, did not repay the King the expense incurred that year for North America, as will be shown in the following book. Still the Hudson's Bay trade was a far more important matter than most people supposed; and its consequence was not realized till men saw the eagerness displayed by the English plenipotentiaries in the Congress of Utrecht, to secure for their nation all the posts on that bay. It is a certainty, that the furs there are finer than anywhere else, and the extreme poverty of the Indians of those parts enables traders to obtain them at very low rates.

Importance  
of this  
conquest.

<sup>1</sup> A rudder for the Palmier had to be sent from France. *Ib.*

<sup>2</sup> Canada Documents, III. viii., p. 250-3. De la Potherie, *Hist. de l'Amérique Sept.*, i., p. 167, gives no details of this campaign. Jérémie, author of the *Relation de la Baye de Hudson*, was taken in the fort in 1696, returned with d'Iberville in

1697, and remained there as interpreter and lieutenant under several commanders till 1707, when he went to Europe. He returned in 1709 as commandant and held that post till 1714 when he transferred the fort to the English agreeably to the treaty of Utrecht. *Relation de la Baye de Hudson*, p. 334.