

prisoner, 1135 men died while the fleet was in the harbor. The Micmacs, who were encamped near, became infected and also died in great numbers. Fresh provisions were supplied in abundance by the Acadians, who, it seems, had a pathway across the province. There is little doubt that the French priest, Le Loutre visited Chebucto and conferred with the commander regarding the condition of the fleet and the assistance that would be furnished by the French of Minas and other parts of the province. Ramesay with a force of nearly seven hundred men had been sent from Canada under orders to co-operate with d'Anville, and his presence in the country tended to embolden the Acadians, whose animosity to the English had been stimulated to the utmost by Le Loutre and his emissaries.

The British by this time had succeeded in gaining knowledge of the presence of the French fleet on the coast. Early in September a sea captain reported at Louisbourg that he had seen the squadron. The English forts were strengthened as much as possible and the garrisons anxiously awaited the attack which was daily expected.

Finally La Jonquière decided to move immediately against Annapolis. Some accounts state that his departure was hurried by a report that a British squadron under Admiral Lestock was expected on the coast. Only a thousand men were now fit for service and deaths were occurring daily. One frigate had remaining only one seaman to a gun. La Jonquière nevertheless gave orders for the embarkation of the troops and made other preparations for sailing.

On October 7th and 8th, the sick were placed on board five vessels which were to serve as hospitals, and the following day the healthy troops were also embarked. On the 11th an Acadian brought word that Annapolis had been reinforced, whereupon a secret council was held. The same day there arrived a ship from Louisbourg under a flag of truce. She brought a number of prisoners for exchange, although her real mission was to ascertain the number of the French fleet and the condition of the forces.

La Jonquière intended to sail on the 12th, but the wind was too high. On that day "La Parfaite," which seems to have been a fifty-gun ship, was condemned and burned, after having been stripped and hauled on shore. A prize snow from Carolina, an Antigua prize, and some fishing schooners were also burned after having unloaded. It is pro-