

Villebon went to Quebec, and from there to France, returning to the former place in July, 1691. He did not reach Acadia until late in the autumn of that year, but he brought fifty soldiers with him, a force large enough to defend his fort at Jemseg against any ordinary attack. During his absence the Indians had been at war with the English, but with little result. Although brave enough, they seldom accomplished anything substantial unless led by white men, and even then it was difficult to keep them faithful if they met with losses and reverses. For the next six years, all Villebon's energies were directed to the work of directing the Indians in their wars against the people of New England, and preventing them from making a permanent peace.

As soon as Villebon returned to his fort at Jemseg, he put himself in communication with Thury, the priest of the Penobscot tribe, and arranged for a winter attack on the English settlements. In February, 1692, York was attacked by the savages, and about seventy-five persons killed, including the venerable Mr. Dummer, the minister of the place. In the spring of the same year a band of four hundred Indians, composed of the tribes of the Penobscot and Kennebec, Micmacs, and Malicetes from the St. John, met at Penobscot to attack Wells; but their attack was repulsed by the bravery of Captain Converse, who occupied the principal garrisoned house. These attacks aroused the English of New England, and they sent an expedition, under Captain Church, an old Indian fighter of King Philip's War, to make reprisals. The main object of this expedition was the capture of St. Castin, a French officer who lived at the mouth of the Penobscot, and whose word was law with the Indians of that district; but it failed.

In 1692, Villebon removed his garrison from Jemseg to the mouth of the Nashwaak, and there began to erect a new fort on the northern bank of that river. The reason given for this change was that Jemseg was subject to inundations when the river was in flood; but a stronger reason, no doubt, was the fact that it was less easy for an English expedition to reach it, and it was nearer the villages of the Indians, on whom Villebon so largely relied for the defence of Acadia. Fort Nashwaak was built on a much larger scale than the Jemseg fort. It was 200 feet square, palisaded after the manner of all the Acadian forts of that day, and with bastions at each corner on which the guns were mounted. Outside of the line of palisades was a ditch, so that