

of provisions, arms, and ammunition were placed on board.

This fleet was placed under the command of de Rochefoucauld duc d'Anville, Lieutenant-General of the French Naval forces, one of the most promising naval commanders of the day. He is said to have been a man of most charming personality, of about forty-five years of age, with the taste for letters and the elegance of manners which characterized his illustrious family. D'Anville's instructions were to proceed to Louisburg and recapture and dismantle it; to proceed to Annapolis, take it and leave a garrison; to proceed to Boston, which he was to burn; afterwards to annoy and distress the coast settlements, cruising as far south as the English Sugar Islands of the West Indies.

Two frigates, *l'Aurore* and *le Castor*, left Brest in advance in April, and arrived at Chibouctou in June where they intended awaiting the main body of the fleet. They made the harbour head-quarters for privateering on their own account and succeeded in capturing several English warsloops and traders, with a number of prisoners, about 170. In August, however, the French ships ran short of provisions and their Commanders resolved on a return to France without waiting for the arrival of the rest of the fleet. The prisoners were placed in charge of de Repentigny and sent to Quebec and the two frigates left Chibouctou on August 12th, bound for home.

Meanwhile the great Armada had sailed from Rochelle on June 22nd. They met with contrary winds and storms, particularly a storm on September 2nd, near Sable Island, where four ships of the line and a transport were left in distress and not afterwards heard from. This storm scattered and dispersed the squadron; two ships bore off to the West Indies; one put back to France; one of these was burnt and