

About twelve or thirteen hundred men had been buried at sea, and the terrible fatality still continued. Such a fleet was in no state to enter upon the work for which it had been intended, particularly as the season was now late.

Among the papers of the late admiral was found one in the king's hand-writing instructing d'Anville to first direct his force against Louisbourg. This the council decided was now impossible, but it was thought that Annapolis at least might be captured. D'Estournel, doubtless dispirited by the many calamities that had befallen the expedition, vehemently opposed such a project and recommended they should sail for France after taking fresh water and provisions. All the land and sea officers considered it dishonorable to return thus without having struck a single blow. It is said the debate lasted seven hours¹ and ended in the defeat of the vice-admiral's proposition.

At the conclusion of the meeting, d'Estournel, exceedingly agitated, entered his cabin and bolted the door. About two o'clock at night groans were heard from within. The door was broken down and he was found lying mortally wounded. In a delirium of despair and mortification he had run himself through with his own sword. Ordering his captains on board, he said to them, "Gentlemen, I beg pardon of God and the king for what I have done, and I protest to the last that my only design was to prevent my enemies from one day saying that I had not executed the king's orders. I resign the command of the fleet to M. de la Jonquière." In twenty hours he was dead.

The command now fell upon Marquis de la Jonquière, governor-elect of Canada, a man who had seen a good deal of active service. Unlike d'Anville, La Jonquière belonged to a family of little fortune, but by ability he had raised himself into prominence. He was of tall stature, of excellent physique, and had an imposing air. Although later in life he proved to be unscrupulous in some matters, yet his worst enemies could not accuse him of being anything but a man of undaunted courage.

For the present nothing could be done until the sickness throughout the fleet had somewhat abated. The men had been encamped on shore, the sick being placed in large tents formed of old sails, but still the deaths continued. According to the deposition of an English

¹ Foster, an English prisoner, states that the council was held during two days.