

affairs to Mr. PITT: and the preparations were begun to carry it into execution soon after Christmas. The French, truly sensible of the importance of Louisbourg, immediately equipped, with the utmost expedition, three several squadrons to cover and defend Louisbourg, and to strengthen their forces on the continent. One, of nine ships, sailed from Brest on the 30th of Jan. 1757, with a body of troops on board, under the command of M. de Beaufremont; who steered for the West Indies to reinforce the French garrisons in that quarter; and to wait the first opportunity to get into Louisbourg after the breaking of the ice. This was followed by another squadron of five ships, which sailed under M. du Rivest, about the beginning of April, with a number of troops, warlike stores and provisions on board, from Toulon; escaped Admiral Saunders stationed off Gibraltar, and arrived at Louisbourg on the 4th of June. A third, consisting of 14 ships, sailed on the 3d of May, (a week before Holbourne departed from Cork) under the command of M. du Bois de la Mothe, from Brest, with a number of soldiers on board, and presents for the Indians, and arrived at Louisbourg on the 29th of June; whereas the English fleet did not arrive at Halifax, the place of rendezvous, before the 9th of July; when both the season, and the superior strength of the enemy, made it impracticable to carry Mr. PITT's vigorous and seasonable plan into execution, with any hopes of success.

A. D.  
1757.

How prevented.

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