

1614. with thirty well-armed men, Argall would never have had the hardihood to attack him. The Sieur de la Saussaye, after taking possession of Port de la Haive, should have gone no further: he would never have been attacked by the English there, for the English intended only to carry on the fishery at Mount Desert Island,¹ and were not in force to get involved in Acadia, where they must have supposed the French on their guard; moreover, they did not know Port de la Haive, the entrance to which is easily defended. Madame de Guerocheville, on her side, erred in not intrusting her enterprise to some one already acquainted with the country; and it is inconceivable how two missionaries, who had already spent two years there, did not suggest all this to la Saussaye, who was disposed, and doubtless had orders, to follow their advice. What is more astonishing is, that all who in the sequel undertook to settle in these southern provinces, failed by committing precisely the same errors, and neglecting to prepare properly.

¹ The English had already, to Biard's knowledge, seized French vessels near there (Biard in Carayon, Documents Inédits, xii., p. 6); and the choice of the spot for a settlement seems mad. Parkman, in his recent work, is not favorable to Biard and his colony; but Bancroft (i., p. 149) does not spare his censure on Argall, characterizing his conduct as worthy only of marauders and pirates.

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