

brigantine set up French colours immediately and answered with a cannon shot; the schooner did the same without putting up a flag. Being come within cannon shot, I fired another cannon before her stern; upon which they answered still with another shot, lowered their main sail, and furled it, in order to make room for their small arms and make ready for an engagement. Being come near enough to them I hailed them, but they made no answer: I then gave orders for the firing a six pounder, and went on hailing; while this was doing, being come very close to her, the brigantine turned to our starboard, and tacking a little to the south in order to present us her larboard, she sent us all her volley of cannon and small arms; while we continued hailing without receiving any answer. I immediately returned the compliment, and they continued the fight during two hours and a half; after which some body cried out to us in English that they would fire no longer. I ordered them therefore to come to, and I sent on board the lieutenant, who returned with the captain of the brigantine and his papers by which I found that this ship was a French brigantine, called the St. Francis, of about an hundred and twenty tons, carrying ten guns and four swivels, her crew consisting of sixty men including thirty soldiers; that this vessel had been laden at Quebec with arms, ammunition, cloaths, and provisions