

and Trinity Bays, moved on to Bonavista. Equipping two barques with Canadian Indians, he came to the fishing settlement in the hope of surprizing the ships lying there. On arriving within ten leagues of the port, to prevent observation, they left the barque and got into two gigs and entering the port at night, he immediately boarded a twenty-four gun frigate, loaded with codfish, and captured it. He burnt two store-ships of two or three hundred tons each, sank another small frigate, and sailed off with his prize and a great number of prisoners. There were at that time 600 British soldiers in the fort on Green Island, who, under arms, appeared upon the scene the next morning, but it was too late for our gallant fellows were now under sail. Such was the account despatched to France by the French pirate.

But we have also the other side of the story. The following is the English account of the same Bonavista battle fought on Aug. 18th, 1704, and sent by the ship *Flying Post* to England. "About the 18th of August, 144 French and Canadian Indians, came about two o'clock in the morning in two sloops and canoes to Bonavista Harbour, about thirty leagues to the northward of this place, and surprized the *Pembroke*, a galley of London, and the *Society of Poole*," of 140 tons, 14 guns, 24 men, Captain Antem, commander. Also the *William* of about 115 tons, 10 men, no guns, but having 30 tons of lamp oil on board. They also attempted to surprize Capt. Michael Gill of Charlestown, New England, with 14 guns and 24 men, who discovering their boat to be French, fired briskly upon them, killing and wounding some of them, so that they returned to the prizes they had taken, bringing the guns of both ships to bear upon Captain Gill, and continued firing upon him with great and small guns for the space of six hours, until the ship was much shattered. He on the other hand playing his big guns and small arms upon them. During the action he veered his ship somewhat to the shore and about 8 o'clock, when they found he could not be taken, they set fire to the *Society*, and cut her loose in a flame to drive upon him, but, by the great diligence of Capt. Gill he got clear of her, and she burnt to the keel. Finding themselves checkmated they set fire to the *William* and sent her before the wind, furiously burning to that degree, that the lamp-oil burning in