

liament without a single constitutional right had passed over the succession provided by law, and invested Prince William of Orange with the crown and sceptre of the three kingdoms and all their colonies. Neither the King of France nor the Irish or Scottish people—save a few who were antagonists in religion—would recognize William of Orange as King, who, to strengthen his position had bought up all the corruptible portion of the population, and proclaimed himself as the champion of religious liberty against the tyranny and inquisition of the Catholic party in Great Britain and Ireland. This party, he asserted, the Stuarts were pledged to support. The publication of this falsehood was the real weapon that defeated his enemies, for the Presbyterian party in Scotland controlled the south of that country, and the English cavaliers themselves withdrew on this pretext alone. War went on, however, between England and France.

The English colonies in America, especially those of New England, for their self-preservation, did all they could for the capture of the French in Canada. Apart from the action of the Congress of all their colonies which was held in Boston in 1689, they received great aid in men and ships from England. Sir William Phips, a vulgar intriguer of common origin and unscrupulous ways, had captured Port Royal in Acadia, when that fort contained but 17 men as garrison, he himself having eight ships loaded with troops. He had promised the accommodation of peace and security if these surrendered, but no sooner was the fort in his hands then he put the people to plunder and led away the soldiers to captivity contrary to terms.

In 1690 he appeared before Quebec with 35 ships and more troops than there were inhabitants in all that part of Canada and demanded of the high-spirited and haughty Buade de Frontenac, who was then governor, the instant surrender of the country. After his envoy was led into the presence of the governor at the Castle of St. Louis he delivered this ultimatum: "William Phips, general of the English army, to M. de Frontenac: The war declared between the Crown of France and England is not the only motive of the undertaking which I have had order to make against your colony. The ravages and cruelty caused by French and Indians without any pretext against the subjects of Their British Majesties have obliged their Majesties to render themselves masters of Canada to secure the safety of their own provinces. But

as I am desirous of sparing Christian blood and to relieve you of the horrors of war, I, William Phips, Knight, by these presents, and in the name of their Most Excellent Majesties, William and Mary, King and Queen of England, France, Scotland and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, demand of you to put in my possession your forts and chateaux in their present condition, with all munitions and provisions whatsoever. I demand also the return of all prisoners which you have, and that you deliver your goods and persons into my keeping. This done, you may hope that, as a good Christian, I will pardon the past as much as shall be proper for the service of Their Majesties and the security of their subjects. But, if you undertake to defend yourselves, know that I can compel obedience, well decided, that, with the aid of God, in whom I place full confidence, to avenge by arms the wrongs which you have committed and to subject you to the Crown of England. I give you an hour in which to reply."

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The reading of this insistent letter in the midst of the brilliant company of officers and nobles of New France who surrounded the governor, was accompanied and followed by stern and contemptuous silence. Frontenac took the ultimatum from the hands of the envoy and rent it in twain, casting its discovered form on the floor at his feet, then with erect front and a gleam of scorn in his eye, he replied to the trembling Anglo-American envoy:

"I will not cause you to await my response so long. First, I do not recognize King William, but I know that the Prince of Orange is an usurper who has violated the most sacred rights of blood and religion in dethroning the King, his father-in-law. I recognize as the legitimate Sovereign of England, James II. Sir William Phips need not be surprised at the hostilities of the French, for he must understand that the King, my master, having received the King of England under his protection, has ordered me to fight against the people who are in revolt against their legitimate sovereign. Is he simple enough to believe that had he offered me better conditions, and did my brave officers consent and counsel me to accept, that I would put faith in the honor of a man who has violated the capitulation which he has made to the governor of Acadia, who is lacking in the fealty which he owes to his prince and adheres to the party of a stranger who