

land, and take possession of Manhattan.* This heroic determination was neither understood nor seconded. Meanwhile, the English besieged Port Royal.

It does not enter into the plan of my work to give an account of this war, one of the most memorable on account of the resistance of the besieged, which is mentioned in the history of the French colonies in America. I will only remark that the English, with fleets and soldiers more numerous by half than the entire population of Acadie, three times failed before Port Royal. This town had, within its walls, as defenders only fifty soldiers, a hundred and fifty inhabitants, and a hundred freebooters; and outside St. Castin with a small body of Acadians and Abenakis, and sixty Canadians. Preparations for the fourth invasion took three years. Connecticut, New York and New Jersey were drained of men and money. To insure its success General Nicholson, with a regiment of marines, was sent out from England to command the expedition. September 24th, 1710, fifty vessels containing three thousand four hundred soldiers entered the harbor of Port Royal and laid siege to the town. Subercase, governor of the country, had not three hundred men, soldiers and citizens, to oppose to this force, and to add to the misfortune St. Castin was in France. When the blockade had lasted twenty-two days, Subercase was forced to surrender his fort with four bastions to the enemy.

Thus fell the Capital of Acadie after a defence which nearly ruined New England. We may form an idea of the fury with which the English set about destroying this colony by the fact that, according to Hildreth, it had cost them, from 1703 to 1704, one thousand pounds sterling for each scalp taken from the Abenakis.† What had been done for Acadie during this interval? The fall of Port Royal itself hardly attracted the attention of the court, taken

* The population of the English colonies at this time was two hundred and sixty-two thousand, thus divided:

Massachusetts,.....	70,000	New Jersey,.....	15,000
Connecticut,.....	30,000	Pennsylvania,.....	20,000
Rhode Island,.....	10,000	Virginia,.....	40,000
New Hampshire,.....	10,000	North Carolina,.....	5,000
New York,.....	30,000	South Carolina,.....	7,000
Maryland,.....	25,000		
		Southern Colonies,.....	87,000
Central Colonies,.....	175,000		

Canada and Acadie both had not a population of eighteen thousand souls.

† Hildreth, Vol. II. p. 253.