

France under * the duke d'Anville, they were much harassed by our French subjects there; and our Minas subjects, gave to the garrison of Annapolis DECEITFUL, and
no

* In the spring 1746, the French fitted a strong armament at Brest to be commanded by duke d'Anville lieutenant-general des Armées navales, to recover Louisbourg, and distress the British North-America; they did not sail from Rochelle until June 22, they escaped or were overlooked by the British admiral Martin's squadron of observation; the court of Great Britain had certain information of their being sailed, and of their destination; but perhaps for certain reasons of state, did not send after them, though we had at that time an equal or better armament ready to sail. This French fleet, after a tedious passage, and having suffered in a storm near the island of Sable, did not arrive off of Chebucto in Nova Scotia until Sept. 10. The armament consisted of 11 line of battle ships, some frigates, 2 fire-ships, transports, &c. having 3150 land-forces aboard. Duke d'Anville's instructions were, to proceed against Louisbourg, and when taken to dismantle it, thence to proceed against Annapolis in Nova Scotia, and when taken, to garrison it: thence he was to sail for Boston, and burn it; afterwards in ranging along he was to annoy and distress the coast of North-America, and finally to visit our West-India sugar islands.

D'Anville detached 3 capital ships and a frigate under the command of M. Conflans to convoy the trade to Cape François in Hispaniola, and to return and join the grand squadron; these were the 4 French men of war which near Jamaica fell in with a British squadron commanded by commodore Mitchel; but Mitchel, in effect, refused taking of them. M. Conflans's orders were, that for advice, he was to cruise upon the Cape-Sable shore between Cape Negroe and Cape Sambre for a limited time, and then to sail directly for France; they received no advice, and never joined D'Anville's squadron; these were the ships that spoke with some of our fishing schooners, and gave a feint chase to the Hinchinbrook man of war in Nov. Sept. 15, they avoided giving any alarm to our Louisbourg squadron.

This French armament, from their being long aboard before they sailed, and from a tedious passage, were become very sickly (duke D'Anville died and was buried at Chebucto) they put in to Chebucto harbour, landed and encamped to recruit their health; in this place, near one half of their people died of scorbutick putrid fevers and dysenteries; the Nova Scotia Indians frequented them much, and this camp illness becoming contagious, the Nova Scotia Indians were reduced by above one third: they were supplied with fresh provisions from our French districts of Minas, Cobequid, Pesaquid, and Chiconisto; the French commissaries or pursers of the squadron paid according to instructions, not only for this fresh stock, but for all the provisions furnished

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