

Midianites in the days of Gideon the Thresher. In those days the settlements were under the command of fishing captains. Great losses were caused by the French marauding pirates and adventurers, and during the years from 1702 to 1704, an attack was made by La Grange, who had served the Hudson Bay Company, under one d'Iberville. Judge Prowse very graphically describes the fishing boats riding at anchor in the placid waters of Bonavista, and how they were attacked by the French war vessels, who were also aided by the Indians in their canoes. After the first shock had been received by the stealthy movements of the enemy, Captain Michael Gill, a New England Skipper, cleared the decks for action.



Bonavista from Coster Street.

and in the language of the historian, they gave the French a "very warm reception." It must be remembered that America was in those days a British Colony, and Michael Gill a British subject, but America had not at that time elected to overthrow British authority, or to claim her independence. Captain Michael Gill had the characteristics of the British Lion. He traded largely with Bonavista, and he had profited much by his lucrative fishery enterprises. Later in the year 1704 there was another raid on Bonavista by La Grange. It will be seen in the account given by Charlevoix, that Bonavista was a strongly fortified position. The Hudson Bay adventurer, after terrorizing the people of Placentia