

culous, and such as any but Frenchmen would have been ashamed of; nevertheless, they were resolved to support them both by argument and arms while the duke De Mirepoix, their ambassador at the court of London was making professions of his master's pacific inclinations, though copies of the orders sent by the French ministry to their officers in Canada were produced in proof of the contrary. At length the English having received intelligence that a fleet was ready to sail from Brest, were no longer to be trifled with, and admiral Boscawen was ordered to sail with twelve men of war to watch them; and was afterwards re-inforced by six ships of the line and a frigate under the command of admiral Holbourne, while the French king gave orders to his ambassador, to intimate that, in case this armament acted upon the offensive, he would consider the first gun that should be fired in the same light as a declaration of war.

Boscawen arriving at Newfoundland, took his station off Cape Race, and soon afterwards M. Bois de la Mothe arrived with the French squadron off the same coast, but the English fleet, on account of a thick fog could not discern them; by which means they escaped an engagement; but two of their vessels, named the Alcide and the Lys, being separated from the rest, were taken by captain Howe and captain Andrews, and were found to have about eight thousand pounds on board; and this gave a rise to the war between the two nations, by which the French in the end, lost all their possessions in Canada.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.