

that artillery and stores might be landed, and this was fortunately done before a violent gale of wind sprung up and drove Lord Colville's squadron off the coast. The French Admiral finding the blockading squadron away, slipped his cables and under the cover of a thick fog, made his escape without being seen by the English fleet, until he had got too far out to sea. On the night of the 17th Colonel Amherst opened fire on the town with a battery of one eight-inch mortar, seven cohorns and six royals, which was replied to by a brisk fire from the fort, which threw several shells. The attack continued until the 19th, but on the morning of the 20th the French, finding themselves abandoned by their fleet, at once capitulated and surrendered themselves prisoners of war, on condition of being conveyed to Brest by the first opportunity. This condition was complied with by Lord Colville who had by that time returned to the harbor. Thus with a small force of eight hundred land forces and three ships of war the French were driven from the shores of Newfoundland.

After the re-capture of St. John's by the English, much destitution prevailed in the town and surrounding settlements. The merchants complained that a number of Irish youngsters had been left in the Colony and that they were in indigent circumstances. The Governor was petitioned to have them sent home, and some were deported. It has been said by some historians that during the attack on St. John's and other settlements in the Colony that the men of the West Country were the principal fighters, there are no records to prove this statement but it has been said by the old inhabitants that whilst the West Country men were great fighters at sea, they

were surpassed on shore by the Irish youngsters.

The attack on St. John's and its capture by the French was keenly felt in Britain, and the Government, on its recapture, took more interest in its defences and in the general government of the Colony. The defences were strengthened at St. John's, and the first Custom House was established in the Colony, being stationed in St. John's. Hitherto a tax had been collected by the naval officers in command of the station; but this mode was changed by the appointment of Mr. Hamilton as the first civilian collector of customs, who was under the control of the department in Boston, Mass., then capital of the North American colonies. The population of the whole island at this period (1762) was reckoned at 13,000, only about one-half of whom were constant residents. The population of St. John's must have been very small, as the most of the people appear to have been settled in Conception Bay and Ferryland. Before Governor Graves left the Colony, in the autumn of 1762, several of the inhabitants who aided in its defences had their services suitably acknowledged. Mr. George Hutchings for his constant watch on the fleet of Admiral de Ternay, was awarded the land now known as the Hutchings' estate.

In 1764 Captain, afterwards Sir Hugh Palliser, was appointed to the Government of the Colony, and he brought with him the celebrated Captain Cook, who upon his arrival in St. John's, was detailed to survey and make a chart of the Island. Previous to this, however, in 1762, Captain Cook had surveyed the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon before they were surrendered to the French.

Under Governor Palliser's administration the navigation laws were ex-