

in the bay or harbour of Gaspee on the south side of the entrance of St. Laurence river, to wood and water, Aug. 23 in the night-time, contrary to the advice of the pilots, in a fog they fell in with the north shore, and upon the islands of eggs lost * eight transports, and 884 men. In a council of war, it was resolved, that by reason of the ignorance of the pilots, it was impracticable to proceed; and that advice should be sent to recall gen. Nicholson from proceeding to Monreal. The fleet anchored in Spanish river off Cape-Breton, Sept. 4. and in a general council of war, it was resolved not to attempt any thing against † Placentia, but to return to Great Britain. They sail'd from Spanish river Sept. 16, and in 21 days were in soundings near the chanel of England. Oct. 16, at St. Helen's, the Edgar, with the admiral's journals and other papers, was blown up, and the voyage (as some say) in that inhumane wicked manner settled. The charge incurred by the province of Massachusetts-Bay was something more than 24,000 l. sterl. allowed by parliament, and converted into debentures transferrable, and bearing interest; it is probable the Massachusetts demand of 178,000 l. sterl. charges incurred in reducing Louisbourg, may be satisfied in the same manner; these debentures to be transferable only towards cancelling the provincial bills of public credit, that ACCURSED PAPER CURRENCY, in which the honest, industrious, frugal peo-

* Whereof one was a New-England victualler, whose men were saved.

† By an intercepted letter from Casta Bella governor of Placentia, to M. Pontchartrain French secretary of state, it appears, that the French had not exceeding 700 men in that garrison and country, consequently must have proved an easy conquest.

When they mustered at Spanish river, the number of men aboard the men of war and transports were 7643; although they had not exceeding 10 weeks provision, at short allowance; in two or three days Placentia might have been reduced, garrisoned, and the fleet dispatched to Great Britain without suffering for want of provisions; I cannot say such was the fatality, but such was the destination of the affair by a wicked ministry.

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