

Company's possessions in Hudson's Bay in an infamous manner; and they were mentioned as such by King William in his declaration of war against the French King. Thomas Phipps, Esquire, was then governor of Port Nelson, and upon the breaking out of the war with France, some troops had been granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, for the defence of their remaining settlements. According to Charlevoix,* fort Saint Anne, which was then in the hands of the French, had no more than three men to defend it; and they made their escape to Quebec, leaving a great booty of skins in the fort. This, together with many other advantages gained by the English in the bay, determined Iberville to run all risks in dispossessing them of fort Nelson. This service had been often projected, and as often miscarried, as the French governors and officers in Canada were by no means fond of so painful an expedition, and which, though successful, was to be attended with no profit, but to the French Northern Company. Iberville, however, had received such encouragement from them, that he and Serigny, notwithstanding all their discouragements from the ice, arrived with two ships of war at the mouth of the river St. Therese, and landing the same night, they made themselves masters of Fort Nelson, the name of which they changed to that of Bourbon; but they found there only a very inconsiderable booty; and they lost so many of their men by the scurvy, and other diseases, that the conquest was not worth the expence.

In the year 1696, the government of England granted a new recruit of force to the Hudson's Bay Company; and the Bonaventure and Seahorse, two men of war, were assigned to that service. La Foret, with a garrison of sixty-eight Canadians, commanded in Fort Bourbon, and on the 2d of September, four English ships and a Bomb-ketch appeared in view of the fort. They were followed by Serigny and De la Motte Egron, the former in a French man of war, and the latter in one of the French northern Company's ships; but, perceiving the strength of the English, they made the best of their way back, Serigny to France, and De la Motte Egron for Quebec; but he was wrecked in his voyage thither and drowned. The fort was summoned, but refusing to surrender, a brisk cannonade began, which lasted for a whole day, and the English, in attempting to land, were at first repulsed by Jeremy, the Ensign of the fort, and the same who has written a description of Hudson's Bay, where he afterwards commanded himself for six years. The fort was then plied with bombs from the ketch, of which twenty-two fell into it, and La Foret was at last obliged to capitulate. If we are to believe Charlevoix, the English granted the capitulation required by the French, but afterwards violated it. But this is extremely unlikely, and it is probable no capitulation was made; or, if made, that it was observed as much as was in the power of the English. Captain Allen was the Commodore of the English Squadron, and upon his return to England, with the garrison of Fort Bourbon, he fought a French privateer of fifty guns, but was killed in the engagement. Four months after the garrison arrived in England, they were sent to France, where they had no sooner arrived, than understanding that an expedition was fitting out to retake Fort Nelson, most of them