

Monneron and Mansuy were charged with this extremely laborious task. We encamped at the entrance of the woods; and in the evening, we were told, that there was a morass of two leagues to cross, where we would often plunge up to the knees in mud.

In the night it blew a very heavy gale. I was under the greatest anxiety for my ships anchored on the open coast, and in a latitude where the sea is dreadful, and where the bottom although of mud, is interspersed with rocks which cut the cables. I resolved instantly to use all my efforts to regain my division; the landing being accomplished, I did not think myself any longer authorized to abandon my ships, above all at a time when they were in the most imminent danger. I ordered the Chevalier de Langle to remain commander of the boats, and I hastened to the sea shore, but the tempest still continuing, it was impossible for me to get on board. Next day, I profited by an interval, and got on board an hour before another storm came on. The Sieur de Carbonneau, who had set off along with me, was cast away in his boat, but was so fortunate as to get to land with his crew. Three days after they returned on board naked, having subsisted on herbs and some wild fruits. The Engageante lost two anchors in the second gale, and the Astree two. If it had lasted some hours longer, the frigate of the Sieur de la Jaille would have been lost, and 300 men drowned.

On the 26th, the wind having calmed, I learned that our troops had arrived before the fort on the 24th in the morning, and that at the first summons from the Sieur de Rostaing, the gates had been opened to him; a capitulation having been proposed and accepted. I wrote to the Sieur de Rostaing to press him to burn every thing, and to re-embark immediately. The anchorage where I was, was not tenable. The Sieur de Rostaing felt for my situation, and made all possible dispatch. It is my duty to mention, that one of the satisfactions, which hath in some degree alleviated the incredible fatigues of this campaign, is the advantage of having had to concert my operations with an officer, whose zeal, talents, and love for the good of the service, convinced me, that all our attacks would be attended with full success.

My measures were again disconcerted by another gale of wind, in which the Engageante run again new riques; her third anchor was broken, and the tiller of her helm, and her boat was lost. My own boat, commanded by the Sieur du Bordieu was also cast ashore, and I lost my yawl and an anchor.

At last fair weather returned, and I had the pleasure on the morning of the 31st of August, to see Fort York on fire, and the Sieur de Rostaing with the remainder of his men, coming off in a large boat, belonging to the Company, which I had taken in the river. During the night, he anchored a league from my ship, and in the morning, he

embarked on board the Sceptre. I immediately set sail, having on board the three governors of Forts Prince Wales, York, and Severn. This last is a small settlement dependant on York, which I did not destroy, as it was of no importance, and as my ships, without anchors or boats, and having 300 sick, could do nothing better than quit these seas, which since the 25th of August, are more stormy than the Channel in the month of January.

I think I may estimate the loss occasioned to the Hudson's Bay Company, at 10 or 12 millions* of livres.

I took care, in burning Fort York, to save a considerable magazine, in a place remote from the fire, and in which I caused to be deposited provisions, powder, shot, firelocks, and a certain quantity of European merchandise, the most proper for exchanges with the Savages; in order that some English, whom I knew had taken refuge in the woods, should they return to their old place of residence, find in that magazine wherewithal to provide for their subsistence, until England might be informed of their situation. I am assured that in this respect the King will approve of my conduct, and that by interesting myself in the fate of those unfortunate people, I have done no more than anticipate the benevolent intentions of his Majesty.

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* Twelve Millions of Livres is exactly half a Million Sterling.

Orkney Islands, Stromness, Oct. 28.

“On the 14th current, the ship King George, one of the Hudson's Bay ships, arrived here, after a tedious passage from York Fort, in Hudson's Bay, and brings information, that a few days after she had arrived there, and had got on board about two-thirds of her cargo, a French 74 gun ship called Le Sceptre, and two large frigates, made their appearance a small distance from the place where the King George lay, and landed some hundreds of troops. As the French ships were lying without Capt. Fowler's vessel, he was obliged to cut his cable in the night-time and went to sea, and by that means escaped being taken. On the day following his arrival here, the Prince Rupert, Capt. Christopher, another of the Company's ships, and a sloop which had been at Churchill and Severn, in Hudson's Bay, also arrived here, and brought certain accounts that the same French ships appeared off Churchill about the beginning of August last, had landed about 600 or 700 troops, and had taken and destroyed Churchill Fort, after taking away the furs and other articles, the cargo the Prince Rupert was going for, and carried away the people in the Fort as prisoners of war. They also bring accounts that York Fort had surrendered after Captain Fowler left it; and that the French troops blew