

eighty-three men. Though the French had most infamously broken the capitulation which had been settled between the Chevalier de Troyes and Governor Serjeant, when they took Fort Albany, and the company's other settlements, yet they exclaimed against the attempt of the English to retake them, as a scandalous breach of good faith. Iberville's garrison at Fort Saint Anne, otherwise called Fort Albany, was but inconsiderable when the English summoned it to surrender. Iberville gave no determined answer, and acted with so much cunning, that he deceived the English into an opinion of his compliance. This rendered them so secure, that he found means to carry off twenty-one of their best men, their surgeon, and one of their principal officers; he then summoned them to surrender prisoners of war. The English, who were still forty able-bodied men, rejected the summons, though they were at that time in a miserable situation, being encamped on a small island, while their ships were jammed in by shoals of ice. Iberville ordered his brother Maricourt to harass them with a small party, both by land and on board their ships; and he himself, in two days after, supported them, and a cannonade ensued on both sides, without much loss to either. At last, Iberville renewed his summons for a surrender, and threatened, if it was not complied with, to give them no quarter. The English, in answer, pretended, that the Fort belonged to them, and that the French had begun hostilities. Iberville paid no regard to these allegations, and demanded that not only the English should surrender prisoners of war, but that they should deliver up to him both their ships with their cargoes. After some consultation, this was agreed to, upon Iberville paying the officers their wages, which amounted to about six hundred pounds, and upon his giving them a vessel, properly equipped, in which they might transport themselves elsewhere. Iberville took care that those officers should be attended by very few of their common men, and by none of their pilots, of whom they had eleven on board, carrying them all prisoners to Quebec, to which, with his two prizes, he repaired by an order from the Governor of Canada. He arrived at Quebec on the 25th October, 1689, having left his brother Maricourt, with no more than thirty-six men, to guard the posts at the bottom of the bay.

As we have little or no account of this expedition on the part of the English, we have been obliged to adopt the French account of it, though it is far from being satisfactory. There is, however, the greatest reason for believing that the Company, perhaps, by their own fault and niggardly disposition, were very ill served by their officers, which might be the true cause of Iberville's success. Fort Nelson was at this time in the hands of the English; and Iberville designed to attack it with two French ships of war, but it was too late in the year 1692, and the English, by this time, had even recovered fort Saint Anne. According to Charlevoix, Iberville had acquired so much credit by his conduct in Hudson's Bay, that he gave some umbrage to Du Tast, the French commandant, who had been sent with a strong squadron, fitted out at the expence of the French Northern Company, to drive the English entirely from all their posts on that bay; and who, out of jealousy to Iberville, declined the service, on pretence that it was too late in the season to attempt it. The Court of England highly resented the proceedings of the French, whom they accused of having surprised the