

their hands were too full in England to give any attention to this proposal. The Massachusetts, however, determined to proceed, and Connecticut and New-York engaged to furnish a body of men. Two thousand were expected to march by Lake Champlain and attack Montreal, at the same time that the forces by sea should be before Quebec. It was late in the season to undertake this great affair, but they tarried longer than they otherwise would have done, in expectation of the stores they had sent for to England. None arriving, the 9th of August the fleet sailed from Nan-tucket. There were between thirty and forty vessels, great and small, the largest of 44 guns and 200 men, perhaps not of superior strength to a sixth rate man of war, the whole number of men about two thousand. They did not arrive before Quebec before the 5th of October. Great dependence was had upon a division of the French force, but it happened, most unfortunately, that the forces designed against Montreal had retreated, and the news of it had reached Montreal before the fleet arrived at Quebec, so that Count Frontenac, the French general, was able to employ the whole strength of Canada against this little army.^b This must have

the French and Indians upon their subjects here, to be more their Majesties concern than their subjects, and will not suffer them to sink and perish under so heavy a burden, but will order to be sent out of the King's store, four or five hundred barrels of powder, with shot proportionable, and four or five thousand fuzes, our guns being many of them lost in the war.--- You may assure their Majesties that it will encourage their subjects here, with all alacrity of mind, to serve their Majesties therewith, for reducing the French in Canada to their Majesties obedience, if their Majesties shall give orders for a suitable number of frigates to attack them by sea.'—Dep. Gov. Danforth's letter to S. H. Ashurst, April 1, 1690.

^b When a plan is thus formed, consisting of various parts, upon the due execution of every one of which the success of the whole depends, it must give great pain to men, who have not lost all feeling, not to have it in their power to perform the parts assigned them, and much greater to have been guilty of neglect or un-faithfulness. It is difficult, at this day, to ascertain the cause of the New-York and Connecticut forces failing. A letter from Boston to London, Nov. 24th, 1690, says, 'That the enemy had notice of our coming, very long before we could get at them, and moreover we had laid in beforehand, that the five nations of western Indians, with a party of English from Connecticut and Albany, should, by land, alarm the French quarters about Montreal; it fell

struck a damp upon the spirits of the English forces, and they could have but little hopes of succeeding. Le Montan, a French writer, says, the General was at Montreal when he heard the news of the fleet's being in the river, and that, if the English had made their descent before his arrival at Quebec, or two days after, they would have carried the place without striking a blow, there not being 200 French in the city, which lay open and exposed on all hands, but that they lost three days in consulting, before they came to a resolution. Success is wisdom with mankind in general. From the ill success of this undertaking, both English and French writers have treated it with ridicule and peculiar contempt. The next morning after the fleet arrived, Sir Wm Phips, the com-

out that, when these were upon their march, some that therein served the French interests, by their wiles, decyed them into a retreat that proved unlucky for us.' The distracted state of the government of New-York, one party determined to ruin the public interest if the other had engaged in it, must have contributed to this disappointment. Leisler writes in a rage to Governor Bradstreet, Sept. 15th, 1690, 'I have used all arguments and means possible to reinforce for Canada, but by Major Winthrop's treachery and cowardice, with the rest of his tools, hath rendered the work altogether impracticable, his errand being so far effected as to leave us in a weaker state than he found us. Nevertheless, we despair not in the least so to maintain that post, that it shall defy him and all his assailants ever to dare attempting such lewd, unaccountable practices in such a rebellious manner, as his keeping a garrison in Livingston's house, posting sentinels to challenge the grand rounds, and other crimes, not only to stop our proceedings to pass the lake, but to answer the ambitious ends of the confederates united therein to divert our forces another way.---Good God! how monstrous is it, under pretence of general assistance, to cover their particular interests and bring to pass such treacherous purposes. Mr. Livingston, that betrayer of the province and arch confederate with yourselves, being willing to have exposed us to the remaining inhabitants; however, God be thanked, we had those that made early provision against these devices,' &c.

Thus Winthrop's character seems to have been made a sacrifice to Leisler's vanity and madness.

^c Sir William Phips was a New-England man, born at Pemaquid in 1650, where he kept sheep until he was eighteen years old, then was an apprentice to a ship carpenter. When he was free, he set up his trade and built a ship at Sheepscote. After that, he followed the sea, and bearing of a Spanish wreck near