

reduced to one and a half ounces each of biscuit and salt meat, and even rats were eagerly devoured. Death by starvation seemed almost certain. Finally, in sheer desperation, the crew demanded of M. Destrahoudal, the captain, that five British prisoners should be butchered and their flesh given to the starving seamen. The captain consulted with his officers, who seeing it was impossible to restrain the frantic crew, ordered the ship's butcher to kill one of the prisoners and serve out the flesh in bits of three ounces each. Fortunately, before the horrible deed was done, a sail was sighted upon the horizon. It proved to be a Portuguese ship, which sent five sheep to the starving crew, who devoured the flesh uncooked.

Such is the tragic story of d'Anville's ill-fated expedition. It had sailed from France with unusual promise of success, yet storm and shipwreck, separation, pestilence, and lack of unanimity in council, all combined to ruin utterly the undertaking; and the remainder of the fleet, shattered and mortified, returned ignominiously home without having struck a single blow to further the purpose for which it was dispatched. Naval history furnishes few such striking instances of disastrous failure.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVER ST. JOHN BEFORE 1672, BY NICOLAS DENYS.

EDITED BY W. F. GANONG, PH.D.

In 1872 there was published in Paris a work of the greatest importance upon the History and Natural History of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.¹ Its author was Nicolas Denys, long the governor under the French King of all the North Shore, from Cape Breton to Gaspé. Though not always clear in style, nor invariably correct in details, it is nevertheless most valuable for its simple straightforward account of events which he himself witnessed, and for its description of places which he himself saw before they were altered by later settlement. His account of the habits and distribution

¹ It is in two parts, containing together nearly 800 small pages. Part I is entitled "Description Géographique et Historique des Costes de l'Amerique Septentrionale," and Part II, "Histoire Naturelle de l'Amerique Septentrionale."