

broke out between France and England and all the ships and vessels employed by the French in Newfoundland were captured, many being brought into St. John's and disposed of. In this war France lost all her Canadian possessions. In 1760 the Governor, Capt. James Webb captured and brought into St. John's the French ship Tavingnon of St. Malo with upwards of three thousand five hundred quintals of dry fish; the whole of which capture produced, by public sale in St. John's, the sum of two thousand five hundred and seventy pounds. In 1761 Captain, afterwards Lord Graves, was appointed Governor. The naval force on the station was very inconsiderable at that time. England was engaged with Spain and France in negotiations for a permanent peace, but Spain had a desire to secure in these negotiations the privilege of fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland. On the 17th December negotiations were broken off, war was declared in January 1762 and the importation of fish from Newfoundland into the Kingdom of Spain was prohibited. In May a French squadron under the command of M. de Ternay sailed from Brest, and on the 24th of June entered Bay Bulls and landed some troops which marched towards St. John's. This place was not then in a proper state of defence. The garrison consisted of only sixty three men, and there was at that time in the harbor the Gramont, sloop of war. After an ineffectual defence the town was surrendered, and the garrison and officers and men of the Gramont were made prisoners. Several merchant vessels, which were in port at the time, were seized, as well as every kind of property of any value. The French then proceeded to repair the fortifications

of the town and harbor, being determined to keep possession of the place. The French squadron which was then assembled at St. John's, after devastating the coast from Bay Bulls to Trinity, consisted of the Robuste, of seventy-four guns, l'Eveille, of sixty four, La Garonne, of forty four, La Licorne, of thirty, and a bomb ketch; they had fifteen hundred soldiers and a proportionable quantity of artillery and stores. The news of the capture of St. John's was some time reaching the other Country, but in the meantime Captain Douglas in the Syren, happening to be on a cruise to the southward of Newfoundland, received information of the appearance on that coast of a French squadron with land forces, he entered St. Mary's harbor and despatched from thence two merchant vessels, the brig William and sloop Bonetta, with a petty officer of the Syren, on board each, to cruise for a stated time on the Banks to intercept the convoy daily expected from England, and then to proceed with letters for General Amherst to Halifax, where they were to take in supplies and bring them to Placentia. The Bonetta was more fortunate than the William and intercepted Governor Graves, in the Antelope, with a large fleet of merchantmen. The Bonetta was ordered to land a party of marines at Isle au Bois (Ferryland) and then to proceed to Halifax with the Governor's and Captain Douglas' despatches. Governor Graves put into Placentia and ordered the repairs of Fort Frederick and Castle Hill and waited anxiously for re-inforcements from Halifax, Captain Douglas meantime superintended the fortifications at Ferryland. On receipt of the despatches, brought by the Bonetta, Lord Colville, who was the Admiral