

visited was Pentagouet, where several members of St. Castings family were taken prisoners, and carried to Boston, where they remained for some time till they were exchanged. At this time, the St. Castings, father and son, appear to have been absent in France, where the former had come into possession of considerable landed estates.

In the spring of 1707, an expedition was organized in New England, for an attack upon Port Royal, which was then held by M. de Subercase. This expedition was commanded by Colonel March, and consisted of 200 infantry, in 23 transports, under the convoy of two men-of-war. They arrived off Port Royal on the 6th June, to the great surprise of the French, who, however, were soon rallied to the defence by the Governor. Bodies of men were sent out to harass the enemy in the woods and retard their approach to the fort as long as possible. In this way, the English were arrested for some days in their progress; but at last, on the third day after their arrival, they came within a short distance of the fort, which was then defended by the inhabitants who had been called in from the surrounding country. M. de Subercase was obliged, however, to burn down a number of buildings in the vicinity of the fort, as he was unable to hold them; and was afraid of them falling into the possession of the enemy. The English then commenced to lay a regular siege to the fort; but the French opposed them with great bravery and success. The Baron St. Castings was among the French at the head of a small body of Indians; and took a very conspicuous part in defending the fort. On one occasion, he made a sortie with a number of Indians and French, and forced the British to retire to their camp with considerable loss. On the 16th June, the French had intimations from their scouts that the enemy was preparing for a combined movement on the fort; and they were therefore fully prepared on the same night when they heard the muffled sound of a large body of men moving towards the walls. When the British came within gunshot, the cannon of the fort commenced to play briskly to the great consternation of the former who had thought to surprise the French. The knowledge that the French

were prepared for them, appears to have disconcerted them, for after burning a frigate and some smaller vessels which were lying at anchor, close to the fort, they retired to their trenches. Next day, they re-embarked on board their vessels, having lost nearly a hundred of their men, and set sail for New England. M. de Subercase, in a letter subsequently written to the French Government attributed the success of the French, in a great measure, to the opportune arrival of the ~~Baron St. Castings~~ ^{Baron St. Castings}.

The failure of this expedition caused much astonishment and indignation throughout New England, where its success had been confidently expected, and it was at once determined to make another effort to reduce the fort. Col. March, on the plea of ill health, gave up the command to Major Wainwright, and the expedition arrived in the basin of Port Royal on the 20th August; but the French were very little better prepared for this second visit, though they had been reinforced by the crew of a frigate commanded by M. de Bonaventure. The English, fortunately for the French, were very dilatory in their movements, and gave the Governor sufficient time to re-assemble all the inhabitants for the defence of the works.

On the evening of the 21st August, the English landed on the side opposite to the fort, and marched at once through the woods until they reached a favorable position, about a mile from the French, where they encamped. A party of over a hundred Indians and *habitans* were immediately sent out by Subercase to some points on the river above the English, with the view of protecting the French property, and surprising the enemy if possible. On the evening of the 23rd, a party of the English was sent from the main body for a reconnoissance, but the officer commanding the advanced guard failed to take the proper precautions, and was caught in an ambuscade and killed, together with a number of his men. Several prisoners were also taken and brought to the fort, and from one of these it was ascertained that the English proposed landing their artillery in the course of the night. Therefore the Governor ordered fires to be lighted along the river as soon as the tide commenced to rise, and this precau-

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The French Government, however, did not
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