

A. D.
1757.

were rendered abortive by a violent storm ^y on the 24th of September, which dispersed ^z and shattered his fleet terribly ^a. So that being forced off his station, and some of his ships greatly distressed, he was obliged to steer away with all speed for England; but left eight men of war under Lord Colville, to protect the trade, watch Louisbourg, and to annoy the enemy.

This was not the only misfortune, that befel Great Britain this summer, in her American war. By Lord Loudon's draughting off the military from the frontiers of the northern provinces, for the expedition against Louisbourg, his Lordship left them more and more exposed to the activity and watchfulness of Montcalm, who, as soon as it was known, that the troops were embarked in

^y It lasted fourteen hours: when it began the fleet was about forty leagues from Louisbourg, and towards the end of it, the ships were within two miles of the rocks and breakers: so that, had not the wind suddenly shifted from south-east to south-west, they would, in all probability, have been drove a-shore and totally lost.

^z The Grafton of 70 guns, the Tilbury of 60, the Centurion of 50 guns, and the Ferret sloop. The Tilbury was lost, the crew were taken up by the French, and civilly treated; except Captain Barnsley; Mr. Dennis, captain of the marines; Mr. Crockson, captain of the grenadiers; Mr. Plunket, master; Mr. Jones, surgeon; Mr. Walker, purser; Mr. Smith, chaplain; Mr. Mackintosh, gunner; Mr. Truscot, midship-man, some private men to the soldiers and sailors, who all perished.

^a Twelve ships were almost dismasted, and others very much damaged.

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