

A. D.
1762.

ideas, by the surprize of Newfoundland. The French, apprised of the weak state of that important island, which had been totally neglected, though Mr. PITT did, immediately upon breaking off of the negociation with the French, advise the sending four ships of the line to Newfoundland, to cover it from any attempt from the enemy: and the French knowing how to make an advantage of such a tenure, when their demand of a share in the fishery in North America, should come upon the carpet in a negociation for peace; the court of Versailles, at the petty risk of two ships of the line^{*}, two frigates and a bomb-ketch, with 1500 men on board, tried the experiment; and this contemptible force, under the command of the Count d'Hauſſonville, landed in the bay of Bulls, on the 24th of June, upon that island; seized upon the small settlement in the bay, and on the 27th obliged the garrison of St John's, consisting only of sixty-three men, to surrender prisoners during the war, with promise to secure them in their possessions and effects. But they destroyed every thing that belonged to the fishery; by which they only injured private pro-

* The Robuste, of 74 guns; L'Eveille, of 64; La Garonne, of 44, and the Licorne, of 30, commanded by M. de Ternay. This object was of such consequence to the French that they declined to engage the inferior force of the Superbe, of 74, the Gosport of 44, and the Danae, of 38 guns, with the East India, West India and North American fleets, under convoy, with which they fell in, on the 11th of May; in order to reserve their full strength for their expedition against Newfoundland.