

and Indian, contrived to gain from him and other sources a partial knowledge of the intended expedition. He was not in favor at Boston; for though one of the foremost in the overthrow of Andros, his creed and his character savored more of the Cavalier than of the Puritan. This did not prevent him from risking his life for the colony. He wrote a letter to the authorities of Massachusetts, and then bribed two soldiers to desert and carry it to them. The deserters were hotly pursued, but reached their destination, and delivered their letter. . . .

Nelson was sent to France, imprisoned two years in a dungeon of the Chateau of Angoulême, and then placed in the Bastille. Ten years passed before he was allowed to return to his family at Boston.¹ . . .

The French had an exact knowledge of the place (Boston). Meneval, when a prisoner there, lodged in the house of John Nelson, had carefully examined it; . . .

¹ Lagny, *Mém. sur l'Acadie*, 1692.

Mém. sur l'enlèvement de Castine; Frontenac au Ministre 25 Oct. 1693.

Relation de ce qui s'est passé de plus remarquable 1690, 1691. (capture of Nelson.)

Frontenac au Ministre 15 Sept. 1692.

Champigny au Ministre 15 Oct. 1692. Champigny here speaks of Nelson as the most audacious of the English, and the most determined on the destruction of the French. *N. Y. Col. Doc's.* ix, 555. In the same collection is a memorial on the Northern Colonies by Nelson, a paper showing much good sense and penetration. After an imprisonment of four and a half years, he was allowed to go to England on parole; a friend in France giving security of 15,000 livres for his return, in case of his failure to procure from the King an order for the fulfilment of the terms of the capitulation of Port Royal. (*Le Ministre à Bégon* 13 Jan. 1694.) He did not succeed, and the King forbade him to return. It is characteristic of him that he preferred to disobey the royal order, and thus incur the high displeasure of his sovereign, rather than break his parole and involve his friend in loss. La Houtan calls him a "fort galant homme."