

detachment, consisting of 700 French and Canadians chiefly, would have been entirely cut off: for, Colonel Bradstreet was joined the same night by Captain Patten and his grenadiers, marching from Oneida to Oswego; and next morning by 200 men detached to his assistance from Oswego. So that these parties separated. Bradstreet made the best of his way to Schenectady: and the others marched together for Oswego.

By the prisoners brought in by Colonel Bradstreet, General Abercrombie was informed that Oswego was the immediate object of the French arms, and that its siege was determined upon by a large body of Europeans, encamped on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

The importance of this place, to interrupt the commerce, as well as the motions of the enemy; and its being the only place to build vessels, for the navigation, upon that lake or inland-sea; and to secure an interest with the Indians, that had not declared against us; determined General Abercrombie to detach a regiment of regulars, under the command of Major General Webb, to its relief. But, notwithstanding the advantage, which the loss of Oswego would give the enemy in all their future operations, and measures; and altho' the English army at Albany could muster 2600 regulars, and 7000 provincials, or thereabout, under the command of General Winslow^m, besides a considerable number of battoe men; their

A. D.
1756.

The siege
of Oswego
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Its defence
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^m At Fort William Henry.

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