

ceeding June, so slow were the communications in those days.

New York, the widely extended frontiers of which exposed her more than any of the other colonies to the attacks of the French and Indians from Canada, acted promptly. She took instant measures for their protection, as well as for the safety of her chief city by the sea. The whole population of the entire Province of New York, men, women, and children, in 1744, amounted to only 61,500, yet within three years, ending in the spring of 1747, she raised £70,000 currency for military purposes and operations, and a few months later £28,000 more, and also kept in the field 1,600 men.

Notwithstanding this great drain on her resources, her Assembly, in answer to the call of the Government of Massachusetts Bay, early in 1745, the next year, for aid to the Louisbourg expedition, voted and paid to Massachusetts the sum of £5,000. She also, through her Governor, sent on to Boston for that expedition ten eighteen-pounder cannon with their carriages, and shot for the same, paying, too, the freight and expenses of their transportation. These were the heaviest guns Pepperrell possessed. She sent no men, because all she could raise were needed for the defence of her own frontiers and the city of New York.

American writers have claimed for different New England men, Auchmuty, Vaughan, and Bradstreet, the authority for the last being Pepperrell himself, the honor of first suggesting the taking of Louisbourg. But it is a fact, and a fact which cannot be truthfully denied, that this honor belongs to Lieutenant-Governor George Clarke of New York. He first suggested it to the Duke of Newcastle in a letter dated "New York, 22 April, 1741," to be seen in the sixth volume of the Colonial Documents of New York, page 183, in which he says: "The harbour of Louisbourg at Breton is strongly fortified, and the entrance defended by a battery of fifty guns. There is sufficient water for the biggest ships, and the harbour is capable of containing a very large fleet; its situation gives them (the French) all the advantages they contend for; it secures their own navigation to Quebec, and