

had it in his power to restrain the indians. The governor, to be certain of such a defeat, sent an officer of his to see the prisoners; they were shewn to him; which had such an effect, that he capitulated that very night. The garrison, consisting of about 600 men, surrendered prisoners of war, and were conducted to New York. The fort and the stores, which were considerable, was given up to the english troops.

The conquest of this fort was of infinite consequence to the security of the english colonies; it is without exception the most important pass in America; and by its situation, secures a greater number of communications, through a more extensive country, than perhaps any other pass in the world. It is in the middle of the country of the six nations, between their chief settlements and their many dependants and confederates, and in a manner entirely commands them all; having on one side the mountains, which abound in game; and on the other, the great lakes, and being surrounded every way, by one or the other, with the whole continent open to it on the west, and our colonies on the east; so that none can pass that way, or have any access to the interior parts of north America, without crossing endless mountains on one hand, or broad seas on the other, but by the narrow pass of Niagara, and an unfrequented path at the heads of the Ohio, which lead up that river. The only communication between Canada and Louisiana, and the country on the banks of the Ohio is by Niagara; all the other encroachments, except Crown Point, quite to the mouth of the Mississippi are supplied from Canada, and consequently by this pass. By the advantage of its situation, it also gives its possessors the benefit of the fur trade, with a multitude of indian nations, spread far and near over the whole continent of north America; and also the navigation of all the great seas of fresh water, called the five lakes

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