

strength at Louisbourg was fixed at seventeen ships of the line and three frigates, which might not be much exaggerated; but there was certainly a very grand augmentation in the military strength, which, upon paper, amounted to 6000 Europeans, 3000 natives and 300 Indians: with this gascade, that the place was well supplied with military stores, and the people desiring nothing more than to be attacked.

This intelligence produced a council of war; and it was therein resolved, upon the credit of this advice, to lay aside the intended expedition; a resolution that had been several times before attempted, but had been as often defeated by those, who rather chose to encounter all dangers, than to do nothing.

Lord Loudon made his dispositions * immediately for returning to New York, where he arrived on the 30th of August. Admiral Holbourn continued, for some time, cruising off Cape Breton, in expectation of an opportunity to attack the French squadron in its return to Old France, and to carry some of them to England. But his hopes

* He garrisoned Halifax with three battalions, and sent two more up the Bay of Fundy.

* On the 20th he appeared off Louisbourg, so near as within two miles, and to see the French admiral make the signal for his ships to unmoor. At which sight the English admiral retreated, and made the best of his way to Halifax. Where, being reinforced with four ships of the line, he returned to Louisbourg: But could not draw the French out to an equal engagement.