

1756. which, he made a forced march to the Oneida Carrying-Place ; where he immediately felled trees into the Wood Creek, to prevent the approach of the * enemy.

THESE, my Lord, were great oversights : but the loss of Oswego must principally be ascribed to a more distant cause --- to a junctō, who have all along embarrassed every part of his Majesty's service on the Lake Ontario. By their misrepresentations, the public has been drawn into a dependence upon the Six Nations, merely to exalt Sir William Johnson : and that nothing might be wanting to procure a change in the command of the army, and destroy all confidence in Shirley's judgment, Oswego, the great object of his attention, has been slighted as an unessential post ; and the reduction of St. Frederic represented as a point of far superior moment.

Unhappy consequences of the loss of this important post.

MY LORD, by these intrigues our country bleeds --- Oswego is lost --- lost perhaps for ever, --- with the naval armament --- above 60 pieces of ordnance, and a rich supply of stores and provisions, laid in at a vast expence, for several thousand men, during the whole campaign. --- Would to God this was all, and we had nothing worse to apprehend ! --- Our furr trade, which has long been the principal object of the national attention, and the support of our frontier city of Albany, is at an end. The French

* The French were equally apprehensive of his advancing towards them, or of our attempting to rebuild Oswego : and very prudently improving the present advantage, began where General Webb left off, and continued the obstruction quite down to the entrance into the Oneida Lake ; which renders it impossible to pass thro' the Wood Creek, 40 miles in length. General Webb not long after abandoned the Carrying-Place, after burning down the forts, much to the dissatisfaction of the Indians.

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