

of Castle-Town and Otter Creek, so as to fall in with the Lake between Crown Point and the mouth of Otter Creek or if the Lake should not be strong enough from thence, then not to approach the Lake until the army reaches Onion river.

If it should be asked what military operations I had in idea to carry on, I would answer, whether Ticonderoga is or will be abandoned, or not, I would advise, in the first place, to secure Isle au Noix, and the army to halt there for three days and all the sleds employed to bring timber on it for erecting a fortification ; and before the army left it five or six rows of strong and heavy pickets should be drove in the ship channel which is there very narrow and not deep, to prevent the enemy's shipping from getting into the Lake, if St John's should not be reduced before the spring of the year, as I suspect it would not. At Isle au Noix three hundred men under the command of a judicious officer should be left with directions to fortify himself in the best manner he could. The rest of the army should then proceed towards St. John's which I suppose the enemy would not abandon, and if it was found impracticable to force the siege because of the frost and snow, one thousand men should be left to blockade it. The remainder of the army should then proceed to reduce Chamblèe which would be the work of a day or two, and then go on to Montreal and secure what stores might be left there by the enemy and take all the merchandize that would be useful for the army and send it to Albany, paying the French merchants a generous price by bills on France, if Congress has a Fund there to draw on as I have been informed they have: Nothing to such of the English as who have been our enemies when we were in Canada in 1775 and 1776.

When at Montreal, the commanding officer will be able to judge with certainty what forces the enemy can gather in Canada to oppose him, and if he finds that he can spare a detachment he should send it to Oswegatchie [now Ogdensburg] to secure or destroy the enemy's shipping which are