

1755. Workmen, and for procuring Provisions and all manner of Stores for that Expedition.

It must be observed here, that when Mr. *Shirley* was first ordered to *Oswego*, the Passage thither was very little known to any but a few Officers, who had been posted at the Garrison there, and a few *Indian* Traders of *Albany* and *Schenectada*, who usually went there once a Year, in the Spring (when the Waters are high) in Battoes, with Goods suitable for that Trade, and returned towards the Beginning of Winter: Upon Inquiry Mr. *Shirley* found, that every thing wanted at *Oswego*, must be first embarked at *New York* on board Sloops, and sent 160 Miles up *Hudson's* River to *Albany*, there landed, and transported 16 Miles to *Schenectada*; that there they must be put on board Battoes on the *Mohawks* River, up which they were to proceed against the Stream about 140 Miles to the great Carrying-place at *Oncida*; that the Passage up that River was rendered very difficult by a great Number of Falls, Rifts of Rocks, and Shoals, which at all times are bad, but in dry Seasons almost impassable; and that in one Part of it, within five Miles of the upper *Mohawks* Castle at *Conajobara*, there was a Fall called from thence the *Conajobara* Fall, which entirely interrupts the Navigation of the River for above a Mile, at which Place all the Battoes and their Cargoes were dragged by Hand over Land; that at the *Oncida* Carrying-place, where