

had conceived the idea of attacking this place soon after the capture of Canseau, and the same autumn had solicited the assistance of the British ministry ; supposing that it might be surprised, if an attempt was made early in the spring, before the arrival of succours from France, he communicated his plan, without waiting for answers from England, in his despatches to the general court, under an oath of secrecy. Wild and impracticable as this scheme appeared to all prudent men, it was natural to suppose that it would meet with much opposition, and it was accordingly rejected—but upon reconsideration, it was carried by a majority of a single voice. Circulars were immediately addressed to the colonies, as far south as Pennsylvania requesting their assistance, and that an embargo might be laid on all their ports. The New England colonies were, however, alone concerned in this expedition. The forces employed by Massachusetts consisted of upwards of 3,200 men, aided by 500 from Connecticut, and 300 from New Hampshire—the contingent from Rhode Island of 300 not having arrived until after the surrender of the city. Ten vessels, of which the largest carried only twenty guns, with a few armed sloops from Connecticut and Rhode Island, constituted the whole naval force. In two months the army was enlisted, victualled, and equipped for service. The command of the expedition was given to a colonel of militia, at Kittery, William Pepperal, Esq. This gentleman was extensively concerned in trade, whereby he had acquired much influence : and as his manners were affable, and his character unblemished, he was very popular both in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where he was very generally known. These qualities were absolutely necessary in the commander of an army of volunteers, his own countrymen, who were to quit their domestic connections, and employments, and engage in a hazardous enterprise, which none of them, from the highest to the lowest, knew how to conduct. In waging war against the papists,