

one hundred miles distant, with four ships of war, the "Eltham," of forty guns, having been ordered from Boston to Canseau by Shirley.

Seven days later, Pepperrell with his forces arrived from Canseau, and landed with but slight opposition at Gabarus Bay, directly in the rear of the city of Louisbourg, and preparations for siege operations began. These were completed on May 7th, and then Warren and Pepperrell by a flag demanded a surrender of the fortress and city. Duchambon, the Governor, by the same flag returned the soldierly reply that their only answer would be at the cannon's mouth. This was received at 5 P.M. the same afternoon, and firing was at once opened from Pepperrell's land batteries. On the 20th of May, thirteen days later, little progress having been made, Pepperrell wrote Warren, "Our men sicken apace, great numbers are now unfit for service," and regretting he had made no further progress; "which," he continues, "is partly attributable to undisciplined troops and sickness among them," and stating that he had not more than two thousand men fit for duty.*

On receiving Pepperrell's letter, Commodore Warren called a council of the officers of the fleet on May 24th. They decided that the best plan would be for the men-of-war to sail into the harbor and bombard the town and batteries, first embarking in different ships sixteen hundred of the land forces, very many of whom were sailors and fishermen; six hundred of them to man the prize frigate "Vigilante," which he had captured three days before, and one thousand with their officers to be landed when judged proper to aid in the capture; the marines of the fleet, under Colonel McDonald, to join the remainder of the army on shore, and to lead in the attack as an independent brigade under Pepperrell. Previous to the council of officers, Warren had taken two French frigates, and on the 20th of May Captain Douglass in the "Mermaid" had fallen in with the French frigate "Vigilante," sixty-four guns, but finding her too heavy for him, retreated towards the fleet, and she, fol-

* London Magazine, 1746.