

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

in the Province of the Massachuset, and Requesting I would send the 7th Regiment with some Companies of Canadians and Indianis to Crown Point, in order to make a Diversion, and favour his Operations.

The next morning, Captain Hazen arrived Express at Quebec, and brought me an Account, that one Benedict Arnold said to be a native of Connecticut, and a Horse Jockey, landed a considerable Number of armed men at St. John's, distant from this Town eight Leagues, about eight in the Morning of the 18th, surprised the Detachment of the 26th doing Duty there, consisting of a Serjeant and ten Men, and made them Prisoners, seized upon The King's Sloop, Batteaus, and every other Military Store, and a few Hours after departed, carrying off the Craft, Prisoners, and Stores they had seized.

From this Party We had the first Information of the Rebels being in Arms upon the Lakes, and of their having, under the Command of said Arnold, surprised Ticonderoga, Crown Point, the Detachment of the 26th doing Duty at these two Places, and all the Craft employed upon those Lakes ; Arnold told Captain Hazen, He had for that Purpose received a Commission of Colonel from the Congress of the Massachuset, with the Command of five hundred Men, that Volunteers to the Amount of fifteen hundred followed him, but he did not wait for them all.

The same Evening another Express brought an Account of the Rebels having landed at St. John's a second Time, in the Night between the 18th and 19th, this Party was said to be three hundred strong, and that nine hundred more were at the Isle aux Noix ; this second Party however was not near so numerous as at first reported, and most probably would have been cut off by a Detachment of one hundred Men from the 26th Regiment, under the Command of Major Preston, had they not been advised of the March of the Troops by one Bindon a Merchant of this Town, upon which they crossed the Sorel, and were fired at by the Troops, as they went down the River.

While this Party, Commanded by one Ethan Allen, said to be outlawed in the Province of New York, remained at St. John's, He sent a Letter by this same Bindon, addressed to one Morrison and the British Merchants of Montreal Lovers of Liberty, demanding a Supply of Provisions, Ammunition, and spirituous Liquors, which some of them were inclined enough to furnish, had they not been prevented.

The little Force we have in the Province was immediately set in Motion, and ordered to assemble at or near St. John's ; The Noblesse of this Neighbourhood were called upon to collect their Inhabitants, in order to defend themselves, the Savages of those Parts likewise had the same orders ; but tho' the Gentlemen testified great Zeal, neither their Entreaties or their Example could prevail upon the People ; a few of the Gentry, consisting principally of the Youth, residing in this Place, and it's Neighbourhood, formed a small Corps of Volunteers under the Command of M^r. Samuel