

Secretary of the Lords of Trade and friend of the Earl of Halifax, their President. He was master of the necessary knowledge and influence, possessor, too, of what was far better, a most brilliant combination of penetrating mind and enterprising character. Coming to America in 1753 as secretary to Sir Danvers Osborn, Governor of New York, who died on entering upon his office, he was thrown closely in touch with De Lancey, and took part in the latter's great Colonial Convention of 1754 at Albany, where he caught from the men of "experience and judgment" there assembled "the actual state of the American business and interest."

Towards the end of 1756, Pownall, dissatisfied with the poor progress made up to that time, returned to England and wrote a memorable letter to Lord Halifax which revolutionized the conduct of the war. He pointed out "that after the English had been repeatedly disappointed in their attempts to penetrate the country by way of Crown Point and Lake Champlain, and had lost Oswego and the command of Lake Ontario; considering the reason there was also to expect the defection of the Indians in consequence thereof, there remained *no other alternative but either to make peace or to change the object of the war, by making a direct attack up the River St. Lawrence, upon Quebec itself; urged to a radical destruction of Canada.*" "The writer of these papers," he says (1) "came over to England in the latter end of the year 1756 to propose and state these reasons, nearly in the same form as afterwards repeated by the paper that follows; particularly the necessity of two fleets and two armies; one army destined for the attack, the other under orders to invest Canada by taking post somewhere between Albany and Montreal, so as to cover the English colonies, one fleet to escort and convoy the army up the River St. Lawrence and the other to cover and protect the sea line of the colonies."¹ The object was adopted. Why nothing was done in the year 1757, and why no more was done in the year 1758 than the taking of Louisbourg, will be explained on a future occasion; the ideas contained in the following paper lead to the rest:—

"IDEA OF THE SERVICE IN AMERICA FOR THE YEAR 1759.

Boston, December 5th, 1758.

"If the point disputed between us and the French be determinedly and precisely understood, the manner of conducting it may soon be fixed. If we are still, as we were at the first breaking out of the war, disputing about a boundary line, and for the possession of such

¹ Administration of the British Colonies, Appendix IX.