

keeping his sword drawn, when we were met by Captain Thompson with the main body. Thompson commanded Captain Mowatt to deliver his sword. He replied, 'Before you take my sword you shall take my life.' Then a parley began, Mowatt threatening that the town would be fired upon, unless they allowed him to proceed to the ship unmolested. Thompson replied that he would have the ship in his possession in less than two hours, observing that he had two armed vessels with one thousand men, with which he meant to attack the Caneaux; and that his intention was to put us in the front. Mowatt replied, our being there would make no difference in the resistance he would meet with from the ship, as it was the duty of the officer commanding to defend the King's ship even though Lord North and all his ministers were in front of his men. In the meantime, many of Thompson's officers were very scurrilous, damning the ministry and all the King's officers, presenting their guns at the same time, and asking leave of their colonel to fire. Thompson, seeing Mowatt calm and intrepid, seemed to pay great attention to his discourse; and, at the same time, used his influence to pacify his people, who at that point seemed to pay some attention to what he said. But one Steward coming up at that instant expressed much satisfaction in seeing us in so dangerous a situation. He complimented Thompson and his party upon their good fortune, asked if they wanted more men, if so, he would immediately send for them; and reproved Thompson in a haughty, imperious manner for suffering Mowatt to keep his sword in his hand, observing that no prisoners had a right to keep weapons. Steward's behaviour enraged the main party, who, with one Simmons at their head, ordered Mowatt to deliver up his sword. He replied, I am a King's officer; and, gentlemen, you shall take my life first. They then advised with Steward about carrying us into the country. Mowatt replied that he would not be carried away alive. Simmons continued very violent, shouting that if the sword was not instantly given up, he would despatch Captain Mowatt; and one of his men having his piece cocked, presented it within a yard of