

and the encampment without consisted of 600 soldiers. The information of Redhead, to the same effect, was also laid before the council, with the addition—that there were two encampments; one of Canadians, and the other of regulars, in a hollow, indiscoverable from the island; and that he was told, by the commandant, of a much larger number of troops expected with the general, lately arrived from France; when they proposed to invest Oswego. Gen. Johnson's letter of the 1st of September, signifying, that his scouts informed him of the departure 300 canoes to Frontenac, was also considered: and from these articles of intelligence—the account of the arrival of the French troops—the suspension of all intercourse between Frontenac and Niagara—and their lying still so long at the former; his excellency observed, it was not improbable their design might be to make a descent on Oswego, if the whole force proceeded on the expedition to Niagara, which was about 150 miles to the westward; and from whence, at that advanced season, they could not return in less than 30 days. That this was the more probable, as Oswego was of the greatest importance for securing the frontiers of the western colonies, maintain-

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