

A. D.
1758.

these lines, says one that was present, would have been like penetrating, with incredible fatigue and endless labour, through a wild forest, where the branches of one tree are interwoven with those of another. What still contributed to the strength of this kind of fortification, was the manner of disposing the forest work in front; so that it only appeared at a distance one continued green of little scattered branches of fir. Very few guns on their lines were distinguishable out of the reach of their metal: and the rest were concealed with spruce branches, until the boats advanced towards the shore, with a resolution of forcing the works.

Our boats rowed up to those places of destruction with the most undaunted courage. But, as they approached, in line of battle, the brave adventurers were presently convinced of their mistake, in regard to the appearance of the enemy's strength: and the enemy, too presuming of their own strong entrenchments and fortifications, unmasked the latent destruction somewhat before the proper time for its due exertion. Before our boats came near the water's edge, the batteries began to play, and to fire red hot balls, grape and round shot, with great activity; and a continual discharge of small arms showered upon them from the lines, which were about 15 feet above the level of the boats.

This obliged the left wing to desist, and to withdraw from the impregnable shore of Kennington cove: and the consequence had been much more fatal to our people, few or any of whom

Left wing
retreats.