

less of their Persons) had been solely intent upon their Duty. I saw the absolute Necessity of calling them off, that they might form themselves behind Brigadier Monckton's Corps, which was now landed, and drawn up on the Beach, in extreme good Order.

By this new Accident, and this second Delay, it was near Night: a sudden Storm came on, and the Tide began to make; so that I thought it most advisable, not to persevere in so difficult an Attack, lest (in Case of a Repulse) the Retreat of Brigadier Townshend's Corps might be hazardous and uncertain.

Our Artillery had a great Effect upon the Enemy's Left, where Brigadiers Townshend and Murray were to have attacked; and, it is probable, that if those Accidents, I have spoken of, had not happened, we should have penetrated there, whilst our Left and Centre (more remote from our Artillery) must have bore all the Violence of their Musquetry.

The French did not attempt to interrupt our March. Some of their Savages came down to murder such Wounded, as could not be brought off, and to scalp the Dead, as their Custom is.

The Place where the Attack was intended, has these Advantages over all others hereabout. Our Artillery could be brought into Use. The greatest Part, or even the Whole of the Troops might act at once. And the Retreat (in case of a Repulse) was secure, at least, for a certain Time of the Tide. Neither one or other of these Advantages can any where else be found. The Enemy were indeed posted upon a commanding Eminence. The Beach upon which the Troops were drawn up, was of deep Mud, with Holes, and cut by several Gullies. The Hill to be ascended, very steep, and not every where practicable. The Enemy numerous in their Intrenchments, and their Fire hot. If the Attack had succeeded, our Loss must certainly have been great, and theirs inconsiderable, from the Shelter which the neighbouring Woods afforded them. The River St. Charles still remained to be passed, before the Town could be invested. All these Circumstances I considered; but the Desire to act in Conformity to the King's Intentions, induced me to make this Trial, persuaded that a victorious Army finds no Difficulties.

The Enemy have been fortifying ever since with Care, so as to make a second Attempt still more dangerous.

Immediately after this Check, I sent Brigadier Murray above the Town with 1200 Men, directing him to assist Rear Admiral Holmes in the Destruction of the French Ships, (if they could be got at) in order to

open a Communication with General Amherst. The Brigadier was to seek every favourable Opportunity of fighting some of the Enemy's Detachments, provided he could do it upon tolerable Terms, and to use all the Means in his Power to provoke them to attack him. He made two different Attempts to land upon the North Shore, without Success; but in a Third was more fortunate. He landed, unexpectedly, at De Chambaud, and burnt a Magazine there, in which were some Provisions, some Ammunition, and all the spare Stores, Clothing, Arms, and Baggage of the Army.

Finding that their Ships were not to be got at, and little Prospect of bringing the Enemy to a Battle, he reported his Situation to me, and I ordered him to join the Army.

The Prisoners he took, informed him of the Surrender of the Fort of Niagara; and we discovered, by intercepted Letters, that the Enemy had abandoned Carillon and Crown Point, were retired to the Isle Aux Noix; and that General Amherst was making Preparations to pass the Lake Champlain, to fall upon M. de Bourlemaque's Corps, which consists of 3 Battalions of Foot, and as many Canadians, as make the Whole amount to 3000 Men.

The Admiral's Dispatches and mine would have gone eight or ten Days sooner, if I had not been prevented from writing by a Fever. I found myself so ill, and am still so weak, that I begged the General Officers to consult together for the public Utility. They are all of Opinion, that, (as more Ships and Provisions have now got above the Town) they should try, by conveying up a Corps of 4, or 5000 Men, (which is nearly the whole Strength of the Army, after the Points of Levi and Orleans are left in a proper State of Defence) to draw the Enemy from their present Situation, and bring them to an Action. I have acquiesced in the Proposal, and we are preparing to put it in Execution.

The Admiral and I have examined the Town, with a View to a general Assault; but after consulting with the chief Engineer, who is well acquainted with the interior Parts of it, and, after viewing it with the utmost Attention, we found, that tho' the Batteries of the lower Town might be easily silenced by the Men of War, yet the Business of an Assault would be little advanced by that, since the few Passages that lead from the lower to the upper Town, are carefully intrenched; and the upper Batteries cannot be affected by the Ships, which must receive considerable Damage from them and from the Mortars. The Admiral would readily join in this, or any other Measure, for the

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