

The writer of the Bristol letter indeed observes, " That our operations against Cape Breton should begin with the Spring ;" but allowing that to be the most advantageous time ; yet if Mr. *Holbourn* had arrived at Halifax by the beginning of May, or even three weeks later, the conquest of *Louisbourg* might have been very easily made this year.

The two most essential points in this case are, 1st. That the Troops employed upon this service should be strong enough to keep the Field against Succours, that may be thrown into *Louisbourg* during the siege, and to repulse any Parties of the enemy in their sallies from the town. 2dly. That they should be landed upon the Island in time to go through the necessary Operations for the reduction of *Louisbourg* before the winter sets in ; which it does not generally, till about the beginning of November.

Now both these points would have been secured, if Mr. *Holbourn's* Squadron had arrived at Halifax by the time, it might have reasonably been expected to have done, and the *General* had got there in due season.

As to the first ; the forces intended to have been landed upon the island were 11,000 *Regular* Troops ; which would doubtless have been strong enough to have carried on their works against the besieged, and kept themselves Masters of the Field.

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