

rities of the enemy; and the French¹ at liberty to strengthen their posts, and to distress the British settlements with impunity.

A. D.
1756.

During this state of inactivity, and of dependance upon reinforcements from their mother country, the army received the disagreeable news of the enemy's entering the country of the Five Nations, our ancient allies; where they reduced a small fort, garrisoned by 25 English, whom they put to the sword, and butchered in a most barbarous manner.

Operations
of the
French.

The French improved the opportunity: they formed a camp at Ticonderoga of 330 tents and 70 log houses, with 3000 troops at that place and Crown Point, and daily increased their numbers. But the defence of this fort was not their only object; and as they were perfectly informed of the orders for the English army not to undertake any expedition, till the arrival of Lord Loudon; and that his lordship could not land in North America, before the time would be elapsed, either to attack Crown Point, or to prevent Oswego falling into their hands; the enemy resolved upon the siege of Oswego: and in order to facilitate their operations against that fort, ambuscades were formed to harrass and intercept any reinforcement, or convoy of provisions, &c. which might be sent to Oswego, from Albany, or from Schenectady.

¹ Who received a reinforcement of about 3000 men, under the command of M. Montcalm, from Europe, under a strong convoy of men of war.