

maxim is, "no man can be judge in his own cause." The streets are narrow, and the buildings low and inelegant, without any one thing to recommend them to the observation of the curious, being built more for convenience and accommodation than for beauty or symmetry.

On the summit above the town, Fort Townshend displays its ramparts and bastions. The Governor's house, the barracks, store-houses, and magazine, form a square within it. From this spot the view is truly romantic; the entrance of the harbour, the Narrows bounded on each side by mountains, and its bosom covered with small craft passing and repassing in various directions, the town beneath, and the surrounding country above, beautifully diversified with lakes and the green verdure, open to the spectator a highly picturesque scene.

From Fort Townshend there is a road leading over the Barrens to Fort William, which commands in a powerful manner the Narrows and the harbour, and which would prove very destructive to an enemy that might be hardy enough to disregard its threats. From hence you proceed by an easy ascent to Signal Hill, the summit of the rocks I have before described. On this was planned and erected a very strong block-house, with two batteries adjoining, by Sir James Wallace. Prior to his taking upon himself the government of Newfoundland, this spot was almost inaccessible from Morasses, broken rocks, and woods; its brow was only occupied by a solitary building, from whence signals were made to apprize the garrison of the approach of ships; but no sooner had Admiral Richery spread dismay and terror from one extremity of the island to the other, than the Governor, fruitful in resources, and possessing much foresight and sagacity, made this pathless desert (in

the short period of six days) very different in its appearance. Roads were made, batteries erected, and it became almost impregnable. Here he intended to retreat should the Forts Townshend and William prove too weak to resist the attempt of the enemy. Here he determined to make a stand against their superior force.

Though the height of this place is 404 feet perpendicular, yet there are two ponds of most excellent water upon it. These spring up in a kind of valley, and from their margin the ascent is very easy and gentle, and for many feet scarcely rising in the least degree. Sir James, whose mind was ever zealously employed for the public good, had formed a plan to erect barracks for the troops, magazines, a Governor's house, and stores, on the brink of this water, which would have rendered the whole garrison independent of, and unconnected with, the town and its inhabitants; for many evils arise from a too free communication between the soldiery and those whom they are appointed to defend, but more particularly at St. John's, where liquors are to be procured with so much ease. Though these plans were officially laid before Government for their inspection, yet it is to be regretted they were never realized, in part owing to the period of his station being expired, and their firm assurance, from the weakness of the enemy's naval force, that no farther attempt could be made upon the island during the present contest. But when peace shall enable them to dispassionately and coolly examine their merits, and to take into the estimate the importance of the capital of so valuable a possession being rendered impregnable, I flatter myself, nay, I hope, no time will be lost in pursuing a plan which does such infinite credit to the ingenious projector, and which at some future period may enable its governor