

A. D.
1759.

This work being finished, his excellency sent out two detachments to take possession of St. Foix and La Crette, which two posts secured eleven parishes in the vicinity of Quebec, and from thence, in case of necessity, the garrison could be supplied with wood and other necessaries of life, during the winter^k.

Loss of
men by
death, &c.

The continual labour and fatigue of this business to secure and to provide for themselves, added to the inclemency of the season; the constant living upon salt provisions, without any vegetables, and the frozen region carried off a great many brave soldiers, by the scurvy and other disorders: so that a thousand were dead before the end of April, and 2000 more were disabled and rendered unfit for service: the scurvy in particular getting the better of every precaution of the officer, and every remedy of the surgeon.

The
French
prepare to
attack
Quebec.

The Chevalier de Levi, who commanded the French cantoned in the neighbourhood of Montreal, still added to their misfortunes, by continual alarms on their posts, though they always tended to the honour of Old England; and by the preparations that were known to be in agitation to attack the city in the very depth of winter. This attempt was intended for execution in February. In pursuance of that scheme they made all the necessary preparations: rackets, or snow-shoes, were distributed to the soldiery; and great num-

^k All lower Canada, from the Point au Tremble, was reduced and took the oaths of fidelity to the King.