

A. D.
1757.

plenty and cheap for the army and navy; whereas he should have known, that the exports can never exhaust the great quantities of provisions which the British colonies in general produce, but more especially in this year, when the crops of corn were extraordinary. So that by this embargo the merchant, the planter and labourer all suffered, while the contractors put immense sums into their pockets: and corn became a drug in America, while England, that year, was in dread of a famine, and deprived of relief from her colonies by an ill-judged and ill-timed embargo.

The secret intended to be covered by this embargo was, a projected expedition against Louisbourg, in conjunction with a naval force expected at Halifax. But how was this managed. As for the naval force you have already seen how it was delayed (page 168, 169). And as for the land army: Lord Loudon drew the troops from the northern frontier of the British settlements adjoining to Canada, and from other parts, till he had collected a body of 6000 men, with which his Lordship embarked at New York, on the 19th of June, under the convoy of three frigates only, it must be owned, with great intrepidity, but with manifest danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, whose superiority in those seas, at that time, proved a sufficient argument to set the expedition against Louisbourg aside, after the arrival of the squadron under Admiral Holbourn; though it was then found, that the army amounted to

Its utility
for the end
proposed.

Lord Loudon and
army fail
for Halifax.

Whole
force when
joined with
Admiral
Holbourn.