

ness of the ground, and the wreaths of snow, made it impossible to bring them off; but what could not be brought off, were nailed up. The killed and wounded amounted to one third of those in the field; that of the french, by their own confession, exceeded 2500 men, which may be readily conceived, as the action lasted an hour and three quarters.

On the night of the 28th, the french opened the trenches before the town; some frigates which they were in possession of, anchored below their camp; for several days they were busy in landing their cannon, mortars, and other ammunition; they worked incessantly at perfecting their trenches, and raising batteries; and on the 11th of may, they opened three batteries of cannon, and one of bombs. The garrison were not idle; they made the necessary dispositions to defend the place to the last extremity; they planted cannon on every bastion, and even in the curtains; and raised new works; insomuch that before the enemy opened their batteries, they had 132 pieces of cannon, placed on the ramparts, mostly dragged there by the soldiery. Notwithstanding this formidable artillery, they were so circumstanced, that had a french fleet appeared first in the river, the place must certainly have fell.

A small squadron of ships had been some time on their passage to Quebec, under lord Colvil and commodore Swanton: general Murray depended on their arrival, to be able to oblige the french to raise the siege; it was the 9th of may before he received any intelligence of them. The 16th, two english frigates were ordered by commodore Swanton to slip their cables, and attack the french fleet, which immediately weighed anchor; but they were so closely followed, and so briskly attacked, that their whole squadron consisting of six ships, ran aground in different places, and several of them were destroyed.

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