

settlements were threatened with destruction by an irruption of the Cherokees.

A. D.
1760.

The situation of the garrison of Quebec was very critical¹. The severity of the climate, after a most severe service in the operations during the summer, to make the conquest of that supposed impregnable fortress; and the danger to which they were exposed on the land side, where the fortifications were not perfectly secured against a coup de main by an enemy, in possession of the open country; of the affections of the natives; and of many other advantages, were difficulties that rendered the tenure of this conquest very precarious. It was easy to foresee that the French would improve the first opportunity, after the departure of the English fleet, to attempt the recovery of Quebec. Therefore General Murray was no sooner fixed in this government, than he prepared against the efforts of the enemy, that remained encamped in the neighbourhood. He repaired the ruins made in the siege; and strengthened the weak parts of the city with eight wooden redoubts, and a stockade, that blocked up all the avenues of the suburbs. He opened embrasures, and placed his cannon to most advantage for the reception of a land force: he made foot-banks along the ramparts, and provided 4000 fascines and eleven months provision; which was deposited in the highest part of the city.

State of
Quebec.

¹ See page 124. Vol. III.