

and although the town and forts fell twice into the hands of the British, very little damage was done.

Early in the season two barks, one of 17 guns the other of 12, were sent by the Marquis de Vaudreuil to cruise before Oswego, and a line of outposts established between that post and Albany for the purpose of intercepting intelligence. Montcalm having secured Ticonderoga and Crown Point by concentrating a force at the latter place of 3000 men, arrived at Frontenac on the 29th July, and on the 4th August detached his first division of troops and artillery for de Villier's camp at Sandy Creek, where, through some unaccountable stupidity on the part of the officers commanding the Oswego garrison, he was allowed to remain without molestation—the second division joined on 8th August, making a total force of 3,100 men. To conceal their operations the force moved only at night covering their batteaux with branches, the men hiding in the woods by this means they reached a cove suitable for the purpose of landing the stores about a mile from Fort Ontario.

On the 11th August, the advanced guard began an investment of that fort to the intense surprise of the garrison: it mounted 10 guns, while Fort Oswego mounted 18 and 15 Howitzers, the other fort was erected between that day and the 14th of August, a large number of barrels of pork being employed in its construction, as the garrison had few intrenching tools. On the 12th of August the trenches were opened against Fort Ontario at two hundred yards distance, under a heavy fire from the besiegers, but their ammunition being exhausted, and some of their guns dismounted, Colonel Mercer drew off his men across the river in whale boats, after spiking his guns. The French immediately repaired the fort, mounted fresh guns, and opened a plunging fire into Fort Oswego, which did not afford cover to its defenders above their knees. At daybreak, on the 14th of August, Regaud de Vaudreuil, brother of the Governor-General, crossed the river by swimming, drove away three hundred and seventy men commanded by Colonel Schuyler, whom Mercer had ordered to keep communications open. While directing reinforcements to be sent him, he (Mercer) was killed by a cannon shot, and the command devolved on Lieut. Col. Littlehales.

Schuyler's men being driven out of Fort George, and the French having crossed the river in force, were forming for attack, when the new Commandant thought it a proper and opportune time to call a council of war, to enable him to determine what course should be followed in this juncture. The Chief Engineer, a Mr. McKellar, being asked how long the Fort could hold out, replied, "an hour." It was at once voted untenable, and therefore it would be the height of folly to await an assault in such a position, but this did not appear to be the opinion of the garrison by any means, they loudly called on the imbecile poltroons in command to lead them on in a fair fight with the French, and there is no reason to believe they would have been beaten. In fact Montcalm was in a critical position, with his troops divided by an impassible river: and although he had succeeded in capturing Fort Ontario and Fort George, it is questionable whether he could have maintained either. However, the English officers were determined to force their men to surrender, had the *chamade* been beaten, and sent two officers to Montcalm to ask what terms of capitulation he would grant, without any instructions to ask such a brave garrison had a right to insist on. The French took advantage of this stupid,

cowardly movement to cross the river in force, place guns in position, and make preparations for carrying the place by storm, while their General answered the envoys by saying he was willing to receive a capitulation, which he explained as meaning an unconditional surrender, with the assurance that they would be treated with all the regard the policy of nations could show to a fallen enemy. Then, keeping Mr. Drake, one of the officers, as a hostage, he sent the others, with M. de Burgenville, one of his Aide de Camps, afterwards the famous navigator, to settle the surrender with Col. Littlehales. He soon returned with the following capitulation.

"Conditions required by the Commandant at Oswego from the Marquis de Montcalm, Army and Field Marshal, and Commander in-Chief of the troops of his Most Christian Majesty in North America."

Article 1. The garrison shall surrender prisoners of war, and shall be conducted from hence to Montreal, where they shall be treated with humanity, and everyone in a manner suitable to his rank, according to the customs of war.

2. The officers, soldiers and others, shall have their baggage and clothes, belonging to them as individuals—and shall be allowed to carry away these, their effects, with them.

3. They shall remain prisoners of war till exchanged.

To these proposals Montcalm gave the following answer:

"I agree to the above articles in the name of his Most Christian Majesty, on condition that the besieged shall give up faithfully the fortifications, artillery, ammunition, magazines, barques and boats, with their appurtenances. I give full power to M. de la Paure, Major General, to reduce this capitulation into form, and settle the manner in which our troops are to be put in possession of the forts, and the proper step for securing the English from any insult.

"Given, at the Camp before Oswego, the 14th day (at eleven o'clock in the morning) of the month of August, 1756."

MONTCALM.

M. de la Paure having performed the task assigned him, the garrison laid down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Their loss during the siege has never been ascertained; that of the French was so inconsiderable as scarce to deserve the name, it consisted of one engineer, one gunner one regular soldier, and one Canadian, killed, with about twenty wounded.

As the sentinels on the hospital had not been removed, and the Indians being disappointed in plunder, they attacked and scalped the inmates, with a number of isolated prisoners, and only desisted when Montcalm shot one of them with his own hands, and six others were killed by the fire of a guard he brought up on this occasion. By this disgraceful capitulation, 1,708 officers and men, 100 women and children, fell into the hands of the French. They also obtained 135 pieces of artillery of different kinds, a large quantity of small arms, 23,000 lbs of powder, 8,000 lbs. of bullets, (lead) 150 bomb shells, with other stores in proportion, and twelve months provisions for 4,000 men.

The fleet which had been built with so much labour and put afloat on Lake Ontario, consisting of the *Halifax*, (sloop) 18 guns, armed *en flute* the *London*, (brig) 16 guns; two sloops, the *Nahant*, 10, and *Oswego*, 6 guns; a schooner of six 4 pounders, and a small schooner of 12 swivels, with a number

of boats and a great quantity of naval stores, five stands of colours, the military chest, containing about £700 in specie. The French state the whole English loss to be 150 killed and won, dead, including those massacred in the hospital said to be over 100, and those cut down trying to escape, so that their loss during the siege must have been small indeed.

Immediately after the capitulation the fortifications were raised, much to the satisfaction of the Indians whose standard grievance it was: but the policy which dictated it on Montcalm's part is to be traced to the fact that he could not spare soldiers to maintain his conquest, its demolition having secured the mastery of the Lake to him and laid the English province of New York open to the stroke of Albany. A great blow had been inflicted on the British, their arms had been disgraced: their principal depot and magazine of warlike materials, which formed the basis of operations against Fort Niagara and the fastnesses on the Alleghany and Ohio Rivers, had been destroyed almost in the presence of a force of 10,000 men, with less loss to the conquerors than would be inflicted in a petty riot, the richest part of the Province devastated with fire and sword, and yet no means were devised to meet an evil of growing magnitude or ward off a succession of similar blows.

Meantime the frontier settlements of Pennsylvania and Maryland were ravaged by bands of Indians and French who committed the most frightful atrocities. In the month of August they surprised and captured Fort Grenville on the Pennsylvania frontier, but had such a glut of English scalps that they preferred loading the garrison with flour and driving them into captivity; however over 1000 inhabitants were killed during the various raids in this campaign.

Colonel Armstrong marched from Fort Shirley on the Juniata to Kittatinny, the chief Indian town at the head of 280 men; he surprised the town only on the 8th of September, and put every soul to the sword amounting to between 300 and 400. A fort was built at Winchester called Fort Loudon, and other unimportant affairs transacted. The season being now far advanced the Canadians having gone home to reap their harvests after the splendid success at Oswego, the sapient English commander distributed his troops into Winter quarters having reinforced Forts Edward and William Henry; a portion was put into Barrack's at Albany and the remainder sent to New York.

If Lord Loudon was a very pacific warrior in the field, he showed an entirely different disposition in Winter quarters: he billeted his officers and men at free quarters on the people of New York, and when the Mayor, Mr. Conger, remonstrated against this infraction of the Bill of Rights and Common Law, his Lordship replied: "G—d—n my blood if you do not billet my officers on free quarters this day I'll order all the troops in North America under my command and billet them myself upon this city." All arguments being thus at an end a subscription was raised for quartering the officers at the expense of the city, while Loudon retired to Boston to breathe the same threats and talk of what he would do in the next Campaign. Thus ended that of 1756, disastrous to the interests of Great Britain in every respect.

The French papers state that two more Papal Zouaves will be enlisted in Canada.

The Township Council of Beverly have resolved to build a Drill Shed for the use of the Volunteers of that township.