

people and alienate them from us, I thought it might be of use to counterwork this stratagem by making a serjeant and four men of the ranging company cross the river and come in upon some of the out-guards, pretending to be sent express from General Amherst ; this gave great spirits to the garrison, and visibly affected the French inhabitants.

4th.—Whilst the people were yet warm with this news, I thought it right to publish a manifesto to make known to them His Britannic Majesty's good dispositions, without saying positively that any such account had arrived ; that at the same time I should neither bind myself too much by the declaration therein made, and at the same time to keep the people quiet in case there was any stir above.

6th.—I ordered a schooner to be brought up from the Island of Orleans, in order to get her ready for sea to meet Lord Colvil and give him some account of our situation.

8th.—Ordered Major Mackellar, chief engineer, to survey the ground about the Caprouge, in order to take post there, thereby to prevent the enemy landing their artillery in that place.

9th.—Began to cut the hulks out of the river St. Charles, in order, if it was possible, and we had the time, to fit them up as floating batteries ; we found the ice fourteen feet thick round the hulks.

10th.—The spruce drinks having been tried in the several hospitals, and found very beneficial to men in scorbutic habits, the disorder at this time mostly prevailing, ordered it to be given to all the men as a preservative against that fatal disease. This day, the ice above the town, as far as the Chaudière, gave way, but it stopped there.

14th.—The workmen finished four floating batteries.

15th.—The schooner *Lawrence* began to be caulked and graved.