

the best manner of negotiating with them. Mr. Shirley, if we are to give credit to colonel Nappier's instructions, was fitter for the cabinet than a command. However, he had then erected a fort, with an armed force, on the territories of France, near the source of the river Nourontsouac, which is about thirty leagues from Quebec. This expedition undoubtedly was what recommended him to the friendship of the general, who ever after gave him distinguishing proofs of his regard, so as may be immediately seen, by his entrusting him, with one of the most important commands. He had already an interview with him at Annapolis in Maryland, where they had, in all likelihood settled together, some of the points, which were afterwards proposed to the consideration of the general council at Alexandria. The minutes of the resolutions taken in this council, were sent to sir Thomas Robinson, secretary of state, in a letter which the general wrote him, the 19th of April. We are told in this letter, that the plan of that campaign's operations was here finally settled. They seemed linked together in so masterly a manner, that Mr. Braddock feared not to say, the success of one of them ensured that of all the rest. (*b*) He might have spoke truth: in as much as the ill success of one, occasioned the failure of all the others. For

(*b*) Letter of April 19, 1754, original Papers, No. 13.