

pect, or could foresee; not so much from the Number of the Enemy, (though superior to us) as from the natural Strength of the Country, which the Marquis de Montcalm seems wisely to depend upon.

When I learned that succours of all Kinds had been thrown into Quebec; that five Battallions of regular Troops, completed from the best of the Inhabitants of the Country, some of the Troops of the Colony, and every Canadian that was able to bear Arms, besides several Nations of Savages, had taken the Field in a very advantageous Situation; I could not flatter myself that I should be able to reduce the Place. I fought, however, an Occasion to attack their Army, knowing well, that with these Troops I was able to fight, and hoping that a Victory might disperse them.

We found them encamped along the Shore of Beaufort, from the River St. Charles to the Falls of Montmorenci, and intrenched in every accessible Part. The 27th of June we landed upon the Isle of Orleans; but receiving a Message from the Admiral, that there was Reason to think the Enemy had Artillery, and a Force upon the Point of Levi, I detached Brigadier Monckton with four Battallions to drive them from thence. He passed the River the 29th at Night, and marched the next Day to the Point; he obliged the Enemy's Irregulars to retire, and possessed himself of that Post: The advanced Parties, upon this Occasion, had two or three skirmishes with the Canadians and Indians, with little Loss on either Side.

Col. Cayleton marched with a Detachment to the westernmost Point of the Isle of Orleans, from whence our Operations were likely to begin.

It was absolutely necessary to possess these two Points, and fortify them; because from either the one or the other, the Enemy might make it impossible for any Ship to lie in the Basin of Quebec, or even within two Miles of it.

Batteries of Cannon and Mortars were erected with great Dispatch on the Point of Levi, to bombard the Town and Magazines, and to injure the Works and Batteries: The Enemy, perceiving these Works in some Forwardness, passed the River with 1600 Men to attack and destroy them. Unluckily they fell into Confusion, fired upon one another, and went back again; by which we lost an Opportunity of defeating this large Detachment. The Effect of this Artillery has been so great (though 'across the River) that the upper Town is considerably damaged, and the lower Town entirely destroyed.

The Works, for the Security of our Hospitals and Stores on the Isle of Orleans, being

finished, on the 9th of July, at Night, we passed the North Channel, and encamped near the Enemy's Left, the River Montmorenci between us. The next Morning Capt. Danks's Company of Rangers, posted in a Wood to cover some Workmen, were attacked and defeated by a Body of Indians, and had so many killed and wounded, as to be almost disabled for the rest of the Campaign: The Enemy also suffered in this Affair, and were in their Turn driven off by the nearest Troops.

The Ground, to the Eastward of the Falls, seemed to be (as it really is) higher than that on the Enemy's Side, and to command it in a Manner which might be made useful to us: There is besides, a Ford below the Falls, which may be passed for some Hours in the latter Part of the Ebb and beginning of the Flood-tide; and I had Hopes, that possibly Means might be found of passing the River above, so as to fight the Marquis de Montcalm, upon Terms of less Disadvantage than directly attacking his Intrenchments. In reconnoitring the River Montmorenci, we found it fordable at a Place, about 3 Miles up; but the opposite Bank was intrenched, and so steep and woody, that it was to no Purpose to attempt a Passage there. The Effort was twice attacked by the Indians, who were as often repulsed; but in these Rencontres, we had 40 (Officers and Men) killed and wounded.

The 18th of July, 2 Men of War, 2 armed Sloops, and 2 Transports, with some Troops on Board, passed by the Town without any Loss, and got into the upper River. This enabled me to reconnoitre the Country above, where I found the same Attention on the Enemy's Side, and great Difficulty on our's, arising from the Nature of the Ground, and the Obstacles to our Communication with the Fleet. But what I feared most, that if we should land between the Town and the River Cap Rouge, the Body first landed could not be reinforced before they were attacked by the Enemy's whole Army.

Notwithstanding these Difficulties, I thought once of attempting it at St. Michel's, about 3 Miles above the Town: But perceiving that the Enemy were jealous of the Design, were preparing against it, and had actually brought Artillery and a Mortar, (which, being so near to Quebec, they could increase as they pleased) to play upon the Shipping: And, as it must have been many Hours before we could attack them, (even supposing a favourable Night for the Boats to pass by the Town unhurt) it seemed so hazardous, that I thought it best to desist.

However, to divide the Enemy's Force, and to draw their Attention as high up the River