

Shirley's character is admitted, suggests that had the British fleet not arrived, some good reason would have been given for proceeding no further than Canso, and adds that Shirley hoped, if the reduction of Louisbourg was not effected, that at least Canso would be regained, Nova Scotia preserved, the French fishery broken up and New England and Newfoundland fisheries restored. (History of Massachusetts, Vol. II, p. 414.) Douglass, who is accused by a modern writer of generally opposing Shirley's measures, says, and the opinion is worth giving in full:—

“The reduction of Louisbourg was much above our capacity; in short, if any one circumstance had taken a wrong turn on our side, and if any one circumstance had not taken a wrong turn on the French side, the expedition must have miscarried and our forces would have returned with shame, and an inextricable loss to the province. As this was a private or corporation adventure without any orders from the Court of Great Britain, the charges would not have been reimbursed by the Parliament, and the people of New England from generation to generation would have cursed the advisers and promoters of this unaccountably rash adventure.” (Summary, 1760, Vol. I, p. 336.)

It has been contended that the general orders to annoy the enemy were sufficient authority for the expedition against Louisbourg, but the facts scarcely seem to warrant this inference. The official answer sent by Commodore Warren to the application from Shirley supports the view taken by Douglass. The naval officers in council with Warren decided to send no ships to cooperate with New England because “the scheme had been undertaken without first receiving His Majesty's approbation;” and the writer of the Memoirs (1757) says that “if every one of the other governments had failed to assist in it, as some of them in fact did, the Massachusetts was determined to have taken the whole burthen of prosecuting it upon themselves.”

The troops from Massachusetts numbered in all 3,250 men exclusive of commissioned officers. The whole expedition was under the command of Pepperell, the land forces being under Waldo, who was at first second in command, a position afterwards given to Wolcott, then Governor of Connecticut, upon the express condition made by that State before furnishing its contingent to the expedition. From all New England the land forces were:—

MASSACHUSETTS:

Regiments of Lieut.-General Pepperell, Brigadier-General Waldo; of Colonels Moulton, Hale, Willard and Richmond; besides men for the whale boats under Colonel Gorham; artillery, under Colonel Dwight and Lieut.-Colonel Gridley; an independent company of carpenters or artificers under Captain Bernard; including officers, the total force was 3,400.

CONNECTICUT:

One regiment, Major-General Wolcott, 500.