

Crown Point. As advices had been received at Quebec that an expedition to act against that city would probably sail from England early in the season, orders had been transmitted to Bourlamaque that in the event of an advance on his position in force by the British he was not to risk the troops under his command in a foolish attempt to defend untenable fortifications nor incur the danger of the loss of a force which could not be replaced, but at once destroy the fortifications and fall back on Isle au Noix on the Richeheu, as the next best defensive position. In compact order, with all the care and judgment which General Amherst's habitual caution prompted, the formidable armament provided by his energy marched from Fort Edward on the 25th June, and on the evening of the same day encamped on the shores of Lake George; on the 22nd, with the assistance of Colonel Montrossor, his Chief Engineer, he traced out the ground on which Fort George was subsequently erected. Owing to the difficulty experienced in transporting material over the portage between Fort Edward and Lake George, it was the 21st of July before the army could embark. On the 22nd a landing was safely effected at the Narrows near the landing place formerly used by Abercrombie's force the previous year. The advanced guard, after a small skirmish, drove in the French outpost and captured some prisoners. This was all the opposition encountered on the march to the Saw Mills, where the troops halted for the night; having secured that post, he advanced towards the enemy's lines next morning on which the French abandoned them and fell back towards the fort which now opened a brisk cannonade, useless as far as its injurious effects were concerned. In the centre of these lines the French had erected a large cross, before this was sunk a deep pit, a brass plate was attached to the cross and on it this inscription was engraved:—*Pone principes eorum sicut Oreb et Zeb et Zebec et Zal manna.*

The lines being occupied the approaches to the Forts were uncovered and Amherst was enabled to send off the New Hampshire regiment to reinforce the garrison at Oswego, a fort which Prideaux had it in charge to re-establish before any advance should be made on Niagara—this was characteristic—illustrating the cautious character of the British General—which also gave rise to a shrewd Yankee joke to the effect that "Amherst would not move from the head of Lake George till every man in his army had built a blockhouse for his own personal security." In the meantime Bourlamaque made all necessary preparations to evacuate the fortress: on the 23rd he withdrew all his force except 400 men and then having made all needful preparations retired on the 26th, first laying a train to the magazine by the explosion of which a portion of the works were ruined. It was immediately occupied by the English and the works restored by General Amherst's directions. Col. Roger Townsend and 15 men were killed and 50 wounded in the operation which led to the fall of Ticonderoga.

Having detached a party on the 1st of August under Major Rogers towards Crown Point, he received intelligence from that officer on the 4th that the French had evacuated that Fort, possession accordingly was taken of it and a new fort was traced out by Lieut. Colonel Eryes. It was now ascertained that Bourlamaque with 3,500 men and a large train of artillery had fallen back on the fortifications of the Isle aux Noix on the River Richeheu, by which the surplus waters of Lakes George and Champlain are drained

into the St. Lawrence. The French had in addition an armament on Lake Champlain consisting of four large vessels heavily armed and well manned.

Amherst's plan of operations always involved the permanent retention of his conquest, and therefore on the acquisition of Ticonderoga, in order to obtain a naval supremacy on the Lake, he had directed the building of a brigantine by Captain Loring, his naval constructor; he now ordered him to add a sloop of 16 guns, to which a floating battery or raft was added designed to carry 6 guns; on the 11th October the whole of the flotilla was ready for sea but, owing to heavy gales from the northward, it was found impossible to carry the troops to their destination, and on the 21st October the force returned to Crown Point was dispersed into winter quarters or employed in opening roads from Ticonderoga to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Major Rogers and 200 men had been detached against the Indians of St. Francois, which village he occupied on the morning of the 5th November, in reprisal for their repeated acts of barbarity; he killed over 200 men, burned every house in the village, but, learning from his prisoners that his retreat by way of Champlain would be prevented, he determined to fall back on a post known as No. 4, on the Connecticut river, and accordingly marched his detachment that route for eight days till, at the Memphremagog lake, his provisions being exhausted he divided it into small parties giving a guide to each, with orders to rendezvous at the junction of Amansook and Connecticut Rivers as he expected to be met by a supply of provisions at that point; after fearful sufferings the survivors reached that point on the 7th November. Previous to placing the troops in winter quarters the flotilla had captured and destroyed three out of the four vessels composing the French naval force on Lake Champlain.

The expedition against Niagara was commanded by Brigadier General Prideaux, and marched from Schenectady on the 20th of May; it consisted of 3,500 soldiers, a detachment of Royal Artillery and 1,500 Indians, the latter under the command of Sir William Johnson. The garrison of the fortress had been reinforced by Captain Pouchet of the Regiment of Bearne with 300 men early in Spring, the works were by no means completed. On the arrival of the troops at Oswego General Prudeaux advised Colonel Haldimand to remain and erect a tenable Fort at that post. On the 1st of July the troops were embarked and landed six miles east of Niagara without opposition. This Fort required no great labor to invest it, being situated on a narrow peninsula. Having opened a communication with the River no time was lost in erecting batteries and pushing forward regular approaches. On the 19th July General Prideaux was killed by a fragment of a shell from one of his own mortars, through the carelessness of the gunner, it burst as it left the mouth of the cannon. General Amherst was at once advised of this accident and sent Brigadier Gage to succeed him, with instructions to attack Presentation, (Ogdensburg) La Galetta and Fort Levi at the head of the Long Sault Rapids, and clear the St. Lawrence generally to the head of Lake St. Francis. Unfortunately this officer was notorious for procrastination and indecision as well as obstinacy, qualities belonging to an impoverished intellect and imperfect education, which cost his country dearly at a future day; on this occasion there was no departure from his usual habits but the work which he was detailed to finish was well and thoroughly completed before his arrival.

Sir W. Johnson, as the senior officer, succeeded *ad interim*, to the command of the forces before Niagara, on the death of General Prideaux, and pushed the siege with the energy and determination of his character, his powerful control of the Indians, placing advantages within his reach totally unattainable by any other officer. He was early apprised that the garrisons of Detroit, Presqueville, Venango, and LeBoisf were being concentrated at the head of the Rapids above Niagara, with the design of making an attack on the British rear; while the garrison of the fort, by a vigorous sortie, occupied the attention of their front. All ways prepared for bold measures, Johnson's resolution was at once formed to march out of his lines, leaving a sufficient force to prevent the sortie, and give battle to the advancing French. On the evening of the 23rd he was informed that they were encamped within six miles of the fortress, and on the 24th he marched out early in the morning to a position midway between the fort and Niagara Falls—all communications between the fort and the advancing columns were effectually prevented by the Indians. The French force, to the number of 1,200 men, were under the command of M. D'Aubrey, and were supported by a numerous body of Indians, fully 1,000 men. The road ran along the top of the cliffs over the Niagara river, and, from the difficulties presented by the ground, little opportunity for preliminary manoeuvres was afforded. The regulars attacked in front, and the English Indian auxiliaries having gained the only exposed flank of their opponents, drove back the French auxiliaries, and gained their rear. A furious charge of the British under Sir William Johnson, swept the whole column, already shaken by the defection of the Indians, so that they broke, dispersed, and were hunted down with merciless slaughter, leaving in the hands of the conquerors D'Aubrey, Ligveris, Chabaut, and other officers, and four-fifths of their whole force killed, wounded or prisoners; the remainder joined M. de Rouleblave, who had been left in charge of the boats at the foot of Lake Erie with 150 men, who retreated to Detroit on learning the results of the action. As the event of the battle was decisive, and the works of the fort in ruins, M. Pouchot capitulated on the 25th of July, the garrison being prisoners of war. The whole loss during the battle and siege did not amount to 150 men, on the part of the British, while the loss of the garrison was also small, nearly 600 men of all ranks surrendered.

Colonel Haldimand was attacked at Oswego on the 5th of July by 1,600 soldiers and 150 Indians, commanded by M. de la Corne, who made a most determined attempt to relieve Niagara, by destroying the base of operations from which the supplies for the siege were furnished, but was beaten off with loss. Brigadier General Stanwix had been directed to operate from Fort Pitt (du Quesne) against the forts between that post and Lake Erie, having detached Colonel Bopquet for that service, after the action of the 24th of July, that officer found no difficulty in obtaining the surrender of all these posts, so that no fortress now remained to the French West of La Presentation, except Detroit, Michilimackinac, and a few unimportant places in Illinois, and the garrisons were exposed to the danger of perishing, as all communications were cut off by which they could receive provisions. On the arrival of Brigadier General Gage at Niagara, General Johnson at once surrendered the command of the troops. As it was yet early in the season, Amherst expected