

was remarkably fine for the season of the year, but the day after the surrender it became foul, and the rain fell incessantly for ten days ; which as there were 1,500 at that time afflicted with a dysentry, must, if it had occurred at an earlier period, have proved fatal to a large portion of the troops.

The concurrence of fortunate circumstances did not lessen the merit of the man who planned, nor of the people who effected the conquest, which exhibited a high spirit of enterprise, and a generous participation in the war of the mother country. Cape Breton was useful to France : in many respects Louisburg had realized the hopes of those who projected its establishment. Its local connections with the fisheries, whence her naval power began to draw a respectability that threatened to rival that of her enemy, made it a commodious station for their encouragement ; and by dividing the principal stations of the English fisheries at Newfoundland and Canseau it gave a check to both. Louisburg was the French Dunkirk of America, whence privateers were fitted out to infest the coast of the British plantations, and to which prizes were conveyed in safety. In November preceding the capture of this place, the grand French fleet sailed from thence, consisting of three men of war, six East India ships, thirty-one other ships, nine brigantines, five scows, and two schooners. The French East and West India fleets found a secure harbour there, and the supplies of fish and lumber were carried with inconvenience from thence to the sugar colonies ; besides which, Cape Breton commanded the entrance into the gulf of St. Lawrence, and consequently the navigation to and from the favourite colony of France. If all these local advantages did not accrue, positively, to Great Britain, upon the capture of this island, yet wresting them from the hand of her enemy was almost equal to it. There was also another of great consequence, arising to her from the existing state of Nova-Scotia. An expedition was projected by the French, to recover the province ; the taking of Cape Breton frustrated