

The Admiral and I have examin'd the Town, with a view to a general Assault, but after consulting with the Chief Engineer who is well acquainted with the interior parts of it, and after viewing it with the utmost attention, we found, that tho' the Batterys of the lower Town might be easily silenced by the Men of War, Yet the Business of an Assault would be little advanced by that, since the few Passages that lead from the lower to the Upper Town are carefully intrench'd, And the upper Batterys cannot be affected by the Ships which must receive considerable Damage from them & from the Mortars.

The Admiral would readily join in this or in any other Measure for the Publick Service, But I could not propose to him an undertaking of so dangerous a Nature & promising so little Success.

At my first coming into the Country, I used all the Means in my Power, to engage the Canadians to lay down their Arms, by offers of such Protection & Security for themselves, their Property and Religion as was consistent with the known mildness of His Majestys Government. I found that good treatment had not the desired Effect, so that of late I have changed my Measures & laid waste the Country; partly to engage the Marquis de Montcalm to try the Event of a Battle to prevent the Ravage, And partly in Return for many Insults offer'd to our People by the Canadians, As well as the frequent Inhumanitys exercised upon our own Frontiers. It was necessary also to have some Prisoners as Hostages for their good Behaviour to our People in their Hands, whom I had reason to think they did not use very well. Major Dalling surprized the Guard of a village & brought in about 380 Prisoners, which I keep, not proposing any Exchange till the end of the Campaign.

In case of a Disappointment, I intended to fortify Coudres & leave 3,000 Men for the Defence of it; But it was too late in the Season, to collect Materials sufficient for covering so large a Body.

To the uncommon strength of the Country, the Enemy have added (for the Defence of the River) a great Number of Floating Batteries & Boats. By the vigilance of these, and the Indians round our different Posts, it has been impossible to execute anything by surprize. We have had almost daily skirmishes with these Savages, in which they are generally defeated, But not without Loss on our Side.

By the List of disabled officers (many of whom are of Rank) you may perceive, Sir, that the Army is much weaken'd—By the Nature of the River, The most formidable part of the