

but men accustomed to woodcraft and the moving of heavy loads could have accomplished as much as these New Englanders. All the shot, shells and powder used in the siege had to be carried by the men on their backs. Much of this work had to be done at night to escape the fire of the enemy.

On the 18th May Pepperell sent in a summons to Duchambon, the commander of Louisburg, proposing terms of surrender. The latter declined to entertain this proposal, but he was surrounded by difficulties, and his hopes of success could not have been high. His garrison was weak, the number of regulars being about 700, and the militia numbering 1,400. It was no doubt the lack of men which led to the sudden abandonment of the Royal Battery, a measure which went far to destroy the defence of Louisburg. The defences of the place were too extensive for the number of the garrison. Nor were the besiegers in much better condition, as regards men. Owing to the cold weather and the exposure incident to the siege there was a great deal of sickness in the English camp. A fortnight after the siege began there were not more than 2,100 effective men left of the original force of 4,000.

Still the work of the siege went on with vigor. On the 18th of May they established a battery of seven guns in front of the King's bastion or citadel. This battery proved very effective. On the 27th May a battery was erected about a quarter of a mile from the West gate, and on the 28th, an advanced battery only 750 feet from the West gate, by means of which it was beaten down and the defences much damaged. On the 31st, another battery named Tidecomb's was erected

which was of great service in destroying the circular battery. The land defences of the place were being slowly but severely pounded to pieces, but the Island Battery still remained unsubdued and it was resolved to carry it by assault. The attempt was made on the night of the 6th of June by a detachment of 400 men, but it failed disastrously with the loss of 60 killed or drowned and 116 taken prisoners. As a second assault was not likely to be more successful it was thought the same result might be achieved in an easier fashion by the erection of a battery on a high cliff, near the light house, on the eastern side of the entrance to the harbor. On the 22nd June, after much labor, two 18-pounders were mounted on this cliff which enfiladed twenty of the guns of the Island battery at a distance of 3,400 feet. By the 25th of the month four more guns and a mortar were mounted on the Light House battery, and the Island battery soon became almost untenable.

During the siege the Vigilant a 64-gun ship, manned by 560 men, and commanded by the Marquis de la Maisonforte, laden with military stores for the relief of the garrison, was captured by the English fleet. When this disaster became known to Du Chambon it had a very depressing effect upon him, for it dispelled any hope of help from without. Louisburg was so closely blockaded that only one vessel succeeded in entering it during the siege. On the 24th June the effects of the English fire were so destructive that Du Chambon sent a flag of truce to the English camp asking for time to send in articles of capitulation. An agree-