

The day after the army had made good its passage over Ashley river, it advanced to Charles Town. It broke ground within eight hundred yards of the enemy's works, in the night of the first of April ; and in seven days after, had perfected the batteries proposed, and mounted them with cannon.

On the eighth of April Admiral Arbuthnot forced his way into Charles Town harbour, under a heavy fire from Fort Sullivan, which damaged several of his ships. He took complete possession of all the different passes, and entirely blockaded the town on that side.

The gaining of the harbour of Charles Town was the heavier a disappointment, as the Americans were firmly persuaded, from the vigorous and fortunate resistance made by Fort Sullivan, two years before, that it would have obstructed the entrance of the British Squadron with the like success.

Depending on the efficacy of the defence it would make, they had moored several ships and galleys in a position to make a raking fire on the British Squadron, on its approaching the fort ; and doubted not being able to reduce it to such a condition, as to frustrate all expectations of succeeding in any attempt of that nature.

They had also, as a further means of prevention, sunk in the channel leading to the town, four large frigates, with several merchant ships, fitted with chevaux de frize on their decks, in the manner of those that had been formerly sunk in the Delaware to the same intent. An immense boom was also extended across this channel. It was composed of spars, chains, and cables, secured together by ships masts ; and it was defended on the side of the town by strong batteries, mounting upwards of forty pieces of heavy cannon.

These obstacles being surmounted, and the British Squadron having taken possession of the harbour,

Sir