

to enter the Lake, and thereby effectually obstruct their passage. He therefore, in the latter end of August, proceeded with such force as he had to Isle-aux-Noix, and took necessary measures to guard against the passage of those vessels into the Lake. Schuyler, who at that time commanded in chief, having also arrived from Albany, they published a declaration to encourage the Canadians to join them, and with the same hope or design, pushed on to the fort of Saint John, which lies only about a dozen of miles from the Island. The fire from the fort, as well as the strong appearances of force and resistance which they observed, occasioned their landing, on the sixth of September, at a considerable distance, in a country composed of thick woods, deep swamps, and intersected with creeks and waters. In this situation they were vigorously attacked by a considerable body of Indians, who did not neglect the advantages which they derived from it; along with which, finding that the fort was well garrisoned and provided, they found it necessary the next day to return to their former station on the island, and to defer their operations until the arrival of the artillery and reinforcements which were expected. It should here be mentioned, that about the middle of July immediately preceding, Colonel Guy Johnson, His Majesty's superintendant of Indian affairs, arrived at Montreal, accompanied by a considerable number of chiefs and warriors of the six nations: after which he held a general Congress with the chiefs and warriors of the Canada confederacy, to the amount of seventeen hundred, who, in presence of his Excellency General Carleton, unanimously resolved to support their engagements with His Majesty, and remove all intruders on the several communications. Schuyler, upon his retreat, returned to Albany, to conclude a treaty which he had for some time been negotiating with the Indians in that quarter, and found himself afterwards so occupied by business, or broken in upon by illness, that the whole weight and danger of the Canada war fell upon Montgomery, a man most eminently qualified for any military service. His first measure was to detach those Indians who had joined General Carleton from his service, and being strengthened by the arrival of his reinforcements and artillery, he prepared to lay siege to the fort of Saint John. This fort was garrisoned by the greater part of the seventh and twenty-sixth regiments, being nearly all the regular troops then in Canada; and was well provided with stores, ammunition, and artillery.

The provincial parties were spread over the adjacent country. In this state of things, the famous adventurer ETHAN ALLEN, who, without any commission from the congress, had a principal share in the original expedition to the Lakes, and the capture of the forts; and who afterwards, under the title of Colonel, seemed rather to have acted as partizan, than as obedient to any regular command, thought to signalize and raise himself into importance, by surprising the City of Montreal! This rash enterprize he undertook at the head of a small party of English provincials and others, without the knowledge of the Commander in Chief, or the assistance which he might have procured from some of the other detached parties. The event was suitable to the temerity of the undertaking. On the twenty-fifth of November, being met at some distance from the town, by the militia, under the com-