

The Assembly, upon the Secretary's laying the Message before them, bound their Members to Secrecy; and after three Days close Deliberation upon it, sent him an Answer; the Substance of which was, "that they were sensible of the Necessity, there was for making an Attempt, as soon as possible, for the Reduction of the Island of *Cape Breton*; but the Undertaking was too great for the Abilities of the Province, and prayed him to represent to his Majesty, how essential it was for the Security of the Colonies and his Service in *North America*, that an Expedition should be fitted out from *England* against this Island, and that they were ready to contribute towards the Prosecution of it to the utmost of their Power."

If every Advantage proposed by the Governor in this Expedition had depended upon effecting the *Reduction* of the Island, the Measure recommended by the Assembly must have been more eligible to him than setting on foot, without the Sanction of the King's Orders, an Attempt of that Consequence; which, if it had failed of Success, might have been condemned as imprudent and rash; but as he was fully persuaded of the high Probability, or rather Certainty, of succeeding at *least* in the other Points before-mentioned, particularly the Preservation of his Majesty's Province of *Nova Scotia* from the Danger, it appeared to be threatened with that Year from *France*; the recovering the *English* Fishery, and Destruction

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