

dead, and above 2000 of what remained, were totally unfit for any service.

In the mean time the french general, the chevalier de Lewis, soon got intelligence of the low state of the garrison, and resolved to attempt carrying the city in the depth of winter. In pursuance of this scheme, he made all the necessary preparations; designing to make the attempt in february: but the success of the garrison in some skirmishes, which happened on several occasions, obliged M. de Lewis to alter his plan, and not to think of attacking the city till the spring was more advanced.

As general Murray found that Quebec could be looked upon in no other light than that of a strong cantonment, and that any works he should add to it would be in that style, his plan of defence was, to take the earliest opportunity of intrenching himself on the heights of Abraham, which entirely commanded the ramparts of the place, at the distance of 800 yards, and might have been defended by his numbers, against a large army. But de Lewis did not give the general time to take the advantage of this situation. In the middle of april, the general attempted to execute the projected lines, but found it impracticable, as the earth was still covered with snow in many places, and every where impregably bound up by frost.

Murray was informed in the night of the 26th, that the enemy had landed at Point au Tremble 10,000 men, and 500 barbarians; their scheme was, to cut off the posts of the garrison; but the general by a judicious march, prevented them from executing it; and several reasons concurred, to induce him to give them battle: he considered that his little army was in the habit of beating the enemy, and had a very fine train of field artillery; that shutting himself up within the walls, was putting all upon the
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