

The plan suggested by Brigadier General Waldo to Pitt for the reduction of Louisbourg in 1758 (note A) is so clearly drawn from his experience whilst in command of the land forces at the reduction of the same place in 1745, that it seems desirable to call attention to some of the incidents of the first siege for the purpose of comparison.

The attack on Louisbourg in 1745 was decided on entirely by the Assembly of Massachusetts, under pressure from Shirley, the Governor. The idea appears to have taken practical shape in the mind of Shirley after the arrival at Boston of exchanged British officers from Louisbourg, bringing such accounts of the state of the garrison and inhabitants as induced him to bring the subject before the Assembly. (For the mutinous state of the garrison and its causes, see Ferland's *Cours d'Histoire*, part ii, pp. 475 *et seq.*) The first decision of the Assembly was, that the undertaking was too great for the abilities of the Province, but that it was ready to contribute towards the prosecution of an expedition undertaken by the Crown. A second deliberation led to a different resolution, adopted by the narrow majority of one vote, by which it was decided to attempt the reduction of Cape Breton, to enlist 3,000 volunteers, subsequently increased to 3,250; to make the necessary arrangements for victualling and transport, besides providing a naval force to act as a convoy. Application was made to the other colonies to furnish their quotas of men and ships; a despatch was sent to the Imperial authorities and a request to Commodore Warren, then at Antigua, for his assistance with such ships as could be spared. Without waiting for an answer to any of these applications, preparations were at once begun for the expedition. The vote of the Assembly was taken on the 25th of January, 1745, and in seven weeks after the Governor had issued his proclamation in accordance with the resolution, the ships of war were ready for sea, the largest being almost wholly built in that time; the transports were provided; the provisions, artillery, ordnance and other stores shipped, and the troops embarked at Boston. Even before that date, several armed vessels were stationed before Louisbourg to keep intelligence and supplies from getting in, and it was only on the arrival of the combined fleets (for Warren had joined at Canso) that the commander at Louisbourg knew that an attack was projected. For the present purpose, it is unnecessary to give the general history of the events attending the expedition, beyond the refusal of Warren to co-operate, a refusal which reached Shirley the day before the sailing of the colonial fleet, and was concealed by him from all but Pepperell and Waldo, the two commanders of the expedition, evidently in the belief that if it were known that Massachusetts must herself conduct the enterprise single-handed, the Assembly would withdraw from a danger which the members had been most unwillingly led to incur. That Warren did, nevertheless, co-operate, was in consequence of orders sent direct from London, in answer to the communication forwarded to the Ministry by Shirley.