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The French forces which still remained in Canada during the winter of 1759-60, were not unequal to the attempt which had been meditated at Montreal against Quebec. These consisted of ten battalions of regular troops, amounting to near five thousand men; six thousand of the experienced militia of Canada; and about three hundred savages. With this force, which had been collected at Montréal, M. Lévi took the field on the 17th of April, 1760. His provisions, ammunition, and heavy baggage, fell down the Saint-Lawrence, under the convoy of six frigates from forty-four to twenty-six guns. By this squadron, which there was nothing to oppose, he acquired the undisputed command of the river, a point of the greatest importance to the whole design. In ten days' march, the French army arrived in the neighbourhood of Quebec. The English thought they still lay quiet in their winter quarters at Montreal. The army, already landed, came up with an advanced guard of fifteen hundred men, posted three leagues from Quebec. This party was just upon the point of being cut to pieces, had it not been

* The French accounts say it was on the 12th, and that the English were surprised on the 13th.