

286 R

That the French talk much of taking Quebec, which they think a very easy matter, and only wait for orders from France and a supply of provisions, and then they design to go against it with 800 men. That the French also talk much of taking Albany but know not which way to accomplish it. That some think the best way will be to surround it and cut off supplies of provisions.

That the Govem^r Mons^t Beauharnois is a very old man and almost childish and seems to be a very timorous man, and the Gov^r of Montreal he believes to be dead by this time.

That the greatest part of the captains and officers are old and infirm, some gouty, some sick &c. That one Mons^t Michel by the name of Commissary rules the Roast at Quebec, who is a conceited fiery man, and not very able to manage business.

That the Governor has sent officers and priests into all the Indians who to call their people together and that he would then give them the Hatchet.

That he believes the French will make no attack upon this country this year, because the regular troops are unfit for service in this country, and those Indians it is thought cannot be depended upon, and many of them young men are up among the Indians to trade, and if they should take the farms, it would be dangerous to starve the country. So that he can't think what people they can send to hurt us. But that they are determined to take Quebec this summer.

That the French are cutting a road to the river at St. Johns to facilitate the carrying provisions to Crown point, and that there is a Sloop in the Lake Champlain.

He further saith. That there are two men at Crown point.

He also saith that the canon which were in the fort at Chambly are carried to Crown point, and that they keep only 5 or 6 men in Chambly fort, thinking it needless to keep more since they have had a fort at Crown point.

II 287

That the French compute themselves to be twenty thousand fighting men in the whole, among which are 28 companies regular troops consisting of 32 men each, but that the companies are not full.

That he has not heard any talk in Canada of a neutrality between the Indians, but that by what heard the Indians are willing to fight. But believes the French will not animate them to go to scalping.

That the people in Canada in general would willingly remain in peace, and rather than enter into war they would subject themselves to the English provided every man might keep his own.

That the best way he conceived to take Quebec would be to take up Britton and then to keep 3 or 4 ships in the mouth of that River St. Lawrence and then to take Onguaga, after which same must surrender of course not having any communication with the sea or the far Indians.

That the walls of Montreal are in bad condition and almost tumbling down, that at Montreal there are 18 guns at the North end of the Town but not mounted. That the wall was torped with another wall under construction.

That at Lachine are 40 p^l cannon and two mortars.

That the country was settled about 25 leagues below Lachine.

That the French had great hopes of persuading our River Indians to settle at St. Francois with the Abenakis, and that the Governor had ordered the priest residing there at the Amioval of some Rio in Indians, who were expected to come and treat with the Abenakis, to kill a bear for them and to give them tobacco &c and whatever they might want.

The news was come from Capt^r Britton, that the young people of that place were gone on an expedition against Lamo.

A Letter was wrote to his Excellency with a copy of the above examination inclosed.