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Fort

A. D.
1756.

Fort St. Philip's in Europe. For, though the vast quantity of artillery, ammunition, stores, and provisions of all sorts, and the number of workmen employed in building, and of others in the navigation upon Lake Ontario, is a convincing proof that the persons concerned in the management of the American war, were not insensible of the importance of this post, both for defence and offence; yet nothing can appear more notorious, except the procrastination of the defence of Minorca, that this post was also lost by delays and neglect, and, at last, by not doing all that was in the power of a garrison to do; as will more fully appear from the following review of the state of Oswego for some time before; when there was the greatest reason to expect a visit from the French, who made no scruple to call it an encroachment, or an invasion upon the French King's territory, made in the time of a profound peace; and it was declared that they would attack, take and destroy it, as soon as opportunity would permit.

Nevertheless Oswego was so neglected, that the French might have executed their design upon it in the spring of the year 1755, when this fort was garrisoned only by 100 men, under Captain King, had no works but the Old Fort, mounting eight four pounders only, and so commanded by an eminence directly a-cross a narrow river, whose banks were covered with a thick wood, that made it utterly incapable of defence; or to command any respect upon the Lake. As was the case on the 24th and 26th of May 1755, when 41 battoes, with 15 men in each, in all 600 men, passed in

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