

our loss must certainly have been great, and their's inconsiderable from the shelter which the neighbouring Woods afforded them.—The River St. Charles still remained to be passed, before the Town was invested—All these circumstances I considered, But the Desire to Act in Conformity to the King's intentions induced me to make this Trial, Persuaded that a victorious Army finds no Difficultys.

The Enemy have been fortifying ever since with Care, so as to make a second attempt still more dangerous.

Immediately after this Check, I sent Brigadier Murray above the Town with 1,200 men, Directing him to assist Rear-Admiral Holmes in the Destruction of the French Ships (if they could be got at) in order to open a Communication with General Amherst. The Brigadier was to seek every favourable Opportunity of fighting some of the Enemy's detachments, provided he could do it upon tolerable Terms, And to use all the Means in his Power to provoke them to attack him. He made two different attempts to land upon the North Shore, without success; but in a third was more fortunate. He landed unexpectedly at Decham baud & burnt a Magazine there, in which were some Provisions, some Ammunition, and all the spare Stores, Cloathing, Arms, & Baggage of their Army. Finding that their Ships were not to be got at, & little Prospect of bringing the Enemy to battle, He reported his Situation to me, & I order'd him to join the Army. The Prisoners he took informed him of the Surrender of the Fort of Niagara, And we discovered by intercepted Letters, that the Enemy had abandoned Carillon¹ & Crown Point, were retired to the Isle aux Noix, And that General Amherst was making Preparations to pass the Lake Champlain, to fall upon Monsieur de Bourlemaque's Corps, which consists of three Battalions of Foot, & as many Canadians as make the whole amount to 3,000 Men.

The Admiral's Dispatches & mine would have gone eight or ten Days sooner, If I had not been prevented from writing by a Fever; I found myself so ill, & am still so weak, that I begg'd the General Officers to consult together for the Publick Utility. They are all of opinion, that, (as more Ships & Provisions have now got above the Town) they should try, by conveying up a Corps of 4 or 5,000 Men, (which is nearly the whole strength of the Army, after the Points of Levi and Orleans are left in a proper State of Defence) to draw the Enemy from their present Situation, & bring them to an Action. I have acquiesced in their Proposal, & we are preparing to put it in Execution.

¹ Ticonderoga.