

with General Pepperill. This was a most fortunate event, for it practically insured the success of the expedition. Warren took up his station off Louisburg and in the course of a few days was joined by six other war ships, so that he had five ships of the line and five frigates under his command.

The ice having disappeared on the 10th May, the expedition set sail from Canso, and reached Gobarus bay on the morning of the following day. The fleet anchored off Flat Point cove which is about two miles from Louisburg. The appearance of vessels was the first intimation the people of Louisburg had that they were besieged. The alarm was at once given, cannons were fired and bells were rung to call the people in the suburbs into the town, and a detachment of 150 under the command of Morpin, a privateer captain and M. Boularderie a French army officer, was sent out to oppose the landing of the English. This force was drawn up at Flat Point cove, where Pepperill made a feint of landing, while he sent a detachment of 100 men two miles higher up the Bay where they landed without opposition. This detachment immediately attacked the French under Morpin and Boularderie, and drove them into Louisburg with loss, Boularderie himself being taken prisoner. In the course of the day the English landed about 2,000 men, without any further opposition. On the following day the remainder of the troops were landed and an army was formed which extended for about three quarters of a mile on both sides of a fresh water brook which flowed into Flat Point Cove. Five regiments were encamped here during the siege. Pepperill's and Burr's on the west side of

the brook and Moore's Moulton's and Willard's on the east side.

On the 13th May Col. Vaughan of New Hampshire, with 400 men, performed an exploit which did much to hasten the fall of the place. He marched his men through the woods and behind the hills to a point on the North East harbor, and about a mile from the Royal Battery, where there were several warehouses containing large quantities of pitch, tar, wine and brandy. These be set on fire and the smoke of this fire being driven by the wind into the Royal Battery so terrified the garrison that they fled after spiking their guns. This battery mounted thirty cannon, and it ought to have offered a vigorous resistance to the besiegers. On the following morning Col. Vaughan, finding it abandoned, occupied it, and drove off a detachment from Louisburg which attempted to retake it. Its guns were speedily restored to efficient condition and turned against the town and defences of Louisburg. The distance from this battery to the town was 6,000 feet, and to the Island battery 4,800 feet.

For the next three weeks the besiegers were kept busy landing cannon and ammunition and erecting batteries. This was a work of great labor and difficulty for Gobarus bay was open to the swell of the Atlantic, and the land was a mixture of morass and rocks over which the cannon had to be dragged by hand with incredible toil. Wheels could not be used at all and Col. Messerve of New Hampshire, who was a ship carpenter by trade, constructed sleds by means of which was possible to move the cannon over the rough ground. No other troops,