

rather after they had reduced that island, must they not then be obliged to build such vessels? And should we not stand on a much better footing in that respect than the French could? We must have vessels on the Lake previous to the capture of Nut Island; and it must be allowed surely, that we could build as fast as they could. But let us give the author a little farther play. Suppose that the Canadians should have taken Nut Island, taken or destroyed our vessels on the Lake, and likewise the fort at Crown-Point; they must still take Ticonderago, and the pass at the Saw-Mills, before they make incursions into the settled parts of our colonies. We are likewise given to understand, that "if the River St. Laurence be still theirs, what is to ensure us against an expedition to Niagara?" I would answer almost impossibilities, that is, if we intend to continue the fort there, and garrison it, a matter I can hardly doubt. The French from Canada must still have the same difficulties to encounter, as by the way of "Champlain Lake;" they must overcome a long and very dangerous navigation from Montreal; their vessels must be superior to ours; and they must likewise reduce Frontenac, Oswego, and Toronto, before they took Niagara: for what good effect could they reap from the capture of that place; and how could they keep possession of it, when in the heart of the country of the Indians our allies, and while we had such important places still in our hands? And even be they as expeditious and successful as you please, they cannot make such conquests within two years at least. The taking of Niagara, and Ticonderago also, cost us three years,

\* Letter, &c. p. 30.

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