

THE FORT CUMBERLAND SUMMONS AND REPLY, 1776.

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The fall of Quebec, in 1759, brought joy and relief to the English colonists of America, for it heralded the end of French power on this continent. It was soon followed by English expansion, of which one phase was a stream of emigration from New England to Nova Scotia, particularly to the rich lands left vacant by the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. Hence it came to pass that the opening of the American Revolution found the present Province of New Brunswick and the contiguous parts of Nova Scotia settled chiefly by New Englanders who were bound to their fellow-countrymen of Massachusetts and the neighboring States by the closest ties of kinship, love of fatherland, and constant intercourse. It was perfectly natural, therefore, that the sympathies of many of these settlers should be with the American rather than with the British cause, and that they should wish to include Nova Scotia among the colonies in revolt. This in 1776 some of them tried to do, but without success, for the British power was too strong. After one attempt, some of them returned to the States, and the remainder gave their allegiance to England, and were afterwards, as their descendants are to this day, among the most loyal of British subjects. Their one armed attempt at revolution was their attack on Fort Cumberland, under the leadership of Jonathan Eddy, in November, 1776. Colonel Eddy, a brave, but rash, leader, gathered from Machias, Passamaquoddy, the River St. John, and Sackville a force of about one hundred and eighty New Englanders, French and Indians, all badly disciplined and badly armed. Fort Cumberland, whose ruins to-day overlook one of the fairest scenes and mark one of the most important historic sites in all the Atlantic Provinces, was strongly garrisoned by one hundred well-trained and well-armed militia under command of Colonel Gorham. Only eighty of Eddy's men were available for an attack, and with these he made an assault upon the fort on the night of November 12th, but was repulsed and his forces scattered. He escaped with the remnant of his men to the River St. John, whence he later retired into Maine.

Before beginning the attack, Col. Eddy sent a summons to the fort, which, with Colonel Gorham's answer, is given below. These two documents are amongst the most interesting in our history. Not