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his command 1300 regulars, 1700 Canadians, and a considerable number of Indians. His first care was to prevent succours and intelligence between Oswego and Albany; which he effected by posting a strong body of Canadians on the road by land, and by blocking up Oswego by water with two large armed vessels. This done, he, without opposition, or danger of being disturbed, transported^o his stores and artillery over the lake to the Bay of Nixouri, appointed the place of general rendezvous for this expedition.

Having proceeded with all the caution in his power to prevent a surprize; and, in case of a miscarriage, to secure a safe retreat, he made the necessary dispositions for the siege, and opened the trenches before Fort Ontario, with about 5000 men, and 32 pieces of cannon, from 10 to 18 pounders, besides several large brass mortars and hoyets (part of the artillery which had been taken from General Braddock) about midnight, on the 12th of August, at the distance of 90 toises (or fathoms, of six feet each) from the fosse of Fort Ontario, and like unto a parallel of about 100 toises in front, and in ground vastly embarrassed with trunks of trees, and such like obstructions. The parallel was finished at five in the morning, when the workmen began to erect the batteries in the midst of a hot fire, kept up by the garrison very briskly from day break to six o'clock at night, and killed their chief engineer in the trenches.

The ap-
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French
against
Fort Onta-
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^o From Fort Frontenac, where he had arrived on the 29th of July.

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