

North America; and general Abercrombie sent over to assume the command, till his lordship's arrival, which was on the 23d of July, at New York. Mr. Shirley having arrived there the 4th, his lordship regardless of his ease, and the fatigues of a tedious voyage, rested there but three days; and on the 29th of July, reached his head quarters at Albany, when he took upon himself the command of the army.

Soon after his lordship's arrival, capt. Bradstreet dispatched intelligence, that he was informed the french were preparing to attack Oswego, having 1200 men for that purpose encamped, not far from the eastermost fort. Upon receipt of this intelligence, general Webb was ordered to hold himself in readiness to march for its defence, with the 44th regiment; and on the 12th of August, the troops embarked for that expedition, at Albany.

In the mean time, lieutenant colonel Mercer, commanding officer at Oswego, received repeated intelligence, that the enemy had some place or camp to the eastward of Oswego, about 30 miles from it; and particularly on the 6th of August, that there was a large encampment of french and indians about 12 miles to the eastward of that fort; on these intelligences, Mr. Mercer dispatched an express boat to the commanding officer upon the lake, who was then out upon a cruise to the westward, with a brigantine and two sloops; letting him know that he intended next day to send 400 men in whale boats to visit the enemy, and desiring him to keep to the eastward as much as he could, in order to cover the men in the boats, and hinder the enemy from approaching nearer; but by some strange neglect, or some other private reason, instead of complying therewith, they returned next day to Oswego, and in endeavouring to enter the harbour, the brigantine was driven by a gale of wind upon rocky ground, where she lay beating about 18 hours, and was afterwards