

1755. between Schenectady and Oswego. When nothing further could be prosecuted, the general retired from Oswego the 24th of October, leaving 700 men in garrison, under the command of Lieut. Col. Mercer; with orders to continue the works projected for its defence.

And re-  
turns to  
Albany.

French  
designed  
to cut off  
Oswego,  
had the  
general  
proceeded  
to Niaga-  
ra.

HAVING, my Lord, taken up too much of your time in a circumstantial relation of the proceedings in this quarter, I shall not trouble you with any reflections upon them. Your Lordship has seen the insurmountable difficulties attending this western expedition; and will doubtless approve our not hazarding the loss of Oswego. That such would have been the event, had Mr. Shirley left the place about the beginning of October, was wisely foreseen; from the advices he had received: and baron Dieskau, just after the action at Lake George, assured a gentleman of distinction in the army, he questioned not the English general would make himself master of Niagara; but that the French had half the forces he brought with him from Brest, with a number of Canadians and Indians, at Frontenac, ready, immediately on his departure, to invest Oswego, and cut off his retreat.

WHILE