

tion, and the Garrison so weak, that in case of a sudden Rupture with *France*, they should, without speedy Assistance from *Boston*, be in Danger of falling into the Enemy's Hands: It was also known that his Majesty's Engineer for *Nova Scotia* had, in the preceding Winter, received Orders from the Board of Ordnance, to build a new Fort of Stone at *Annapolis Royal*, as soon as the Season would permit, and that he was preparing to lay the Foundation of it; which would make the Garrison less attentive to repair the Works of the old Fort.

This Account therefore of the Motions of the *French* gave just Grounds to dread their following the late Blow, they had given *Canada*, with an immediate Attempt against the Fort of *Annapolis Royal*; the Reduction of which would have put them into the Possession of the whole Country of *Nova Scotia*, with about 16,000 *French* Inhabitants, who were justly suspected of a Disposition to join with them against the *English*.

Wherefore to prevent the Garrison at *Annapolis Royal* from being surprized by the Enemy, and to apprize Mr. *Mascarene* of the Necessity of repairing the old Fort in the best manner, the ruinous State of its Works, and the short time he had to do it in, would admit; the Governor of the *Massachusetts Bay* dispatched an armed Vessel in the Service of the Province, to *Annapolis Royal*, with an Account of the Motions of the *French*, and a Promise to send the Garrison a speedy Reinforcement.