

A. D. battoes of different sizes, whose officers and
1756. crews were included in the capitulation.

Future
conduct of
the French.

As soon as the forts were demolished the French marched with the utmost speed, with their prisonersⁿ and booty, to join their army at Ticondoroga, and to oppose the motions of the provincial army, of about 7000 men, which ought to have long before attacked Crown Point; but had laid idle, under General Winslow, till reduced by sickness and desertion to 4000, and till the French were now in a condition to hold them at defiance. The provincials deserted, because they were disheartened by an inactive campaign; and the new-raised troops contracted many disorders, for want of care and cleanliness. But no enemy appearing, they proceeded to Montreal, and thence to Quebec, where the prisoners were immediately embarked and sent to Portsmouth in a cartel ship.

Remarks
on this loss.

Thus within the space of four days, from the time the trenches were opened before Fort Ontario, we have seen the loss of the only post Great Britain had on the Great Lakes; much in the same way as Mahon was lost in the Mediterranean; though it was of as much or greater importance to maintain this post on the continent of North America, to overawe the wavering and hostile Indians, to protect our allies, to cover our settlements and to chastise our enemies; as to preserve

ⁿ Such as were left alive; for, contrary to the faith of the capitulation, Montcalm not only suffered the garrison to be stripped and many of them to be murdered by his army; but he delivered twenty of them up to the mercy of the Indians, by way of atonement for the loss of their friends, that had fallen in battle.