

1776.

*Small pox
break out
in the
provinci-
al camp.*

their artillery was far from being equal to any great service. Although considerable reinforcements arrived in the remote parts of the Province, the various impediments of bad roads, bad weather, and the want of necessaries suitable to the service, prevented their being able to join them. In the state of despondency consequent of these circumstances, that scourge and terror of the western Continent and of its numerous nations, the small pox broke out, and made its usual cruel ravages amongst them. Nor was the immediate effect with respect to life or health the worst consequence of the calamity; for that disorder being considered as the American plague, and regarded with all the horror incident to that name, the dread of infection broke in upon every other consideration, and rendered it difficult, if not impracticable, to sustain discipline, or preserve order.

*Arrival
of the Isis
man of
war with
land and
marine
forces.*

In this situation, the Provincial accounts inform us, that they intended to raise the siege before the arrival of the succours from England, and that General Wooster, who at that time held the command, with some other of the principal officers, had already gone to Montreal to make some preparations necessary for the facilitating of that purpose. If such a design was formed, it was prevented from being carried successfully into execution, by the zeal and activity of the officers and crews of the Isis man of war, and of two frigates which were the first that had sailed from England with succours, and who with great labour, conduct, and resolution, having forced their way through the ice, arrived at Quebec before the passage was deemed practicable. The unexpected sight of the ships, threw the besiegers into the greatest consternation, which was not lessened by the immediate effect, of their cutting off all communication between their forces on the different sides of the river.

General