

were from Connecticut; two carrying 28 guns were from New Hampshire; and one of 20 guns was from Rhode Island. It was expected that Commodore Warren, who was in command of the British fleet on the North American station, would co-operate with the colonial land forces, but on the 23rd March, the very day before the expedition was to have set sail, an express boat arrived at Boston from him declining to join in the attack on Louisburg. This was a grievous disappointment, but the men who were at the head of this crusade against the power of France were not to be deterred by any difficulties, and the expedition took its departure from Boston on the day appointed. The only men to whom Governor Shirley communicated Warren's message were General Pepperell, the Commander of the expedition, and Col. Waldo of Boston, third in command. Even the second in command, General Walcott, of Connecticut, was not told of Warren's refusal to co-operate with the New England forces.

The leaders of this expedition were men whose character and ability counted for more than their experience in war. General Pepperell was a merchant of Kittery, and a colonel of militia, a man of upright character and of popular manners. He was altogether without experience in war, but he had plenty of courage and good sense and proved to be an excellent leader. He was in his forty-ninth year. The second in command was General Wolcott, of Connecticut, who had been a member of Nicholzen's expedition against Canada in 1711. Col. Samuel Waldo, a native of Boston, whose military experience was no greater than that

of Pepperell was third in command. Hardly one of the officers had ever seen a shot fired in anger, and none of them had taken part in the siege of a strong fortress like Louisburg. But there was plenty of zeal and courage and energy among both officers and men, and these made up for their lack of experience in war.

The expedition reached Canso on 4th April, old style, which would be the 1st April according to the present calendar. The whole eastern coast of Cape Breton was at that time surrounded by ice, and Gobarus bay, where the troops were to land, was so filled with it as to make a landing there impracticable. Almost four weeks were spent at Canso, but they were not wasted. A block house, mounting eight 9-pounders was built, and a garrison of 80 men was placed in it. On the 27th April one of the Massachusetts ships captured a French brigantine from Martinique with a large West Indian cargo for Louisburg. On the 29th a French ship, the *Reuommée*, bound for Louisburg, was chased by the New England vessels, but escaped to the south. Louisburg was effectually cut off from all communication with the outside world but no one in that fortress was aware of the fact. The commander and garrison of Louisburg rested in fancied security while their enemies gathered in over-whelming force.

On the 1st May Commodore Warren with four ships of war reached Canso and announced his intention of taking part in the siege. A few days before he had received orders from England to co-operate with the New England officers, and he lost no time in placing himself in communication