

called a council of war, to advise on his future measures, and he took their opinions in every article, few of which were of importance.

He had heard some time before, that there was a design in England to supersede him ; but this was uncertain, till col. Webb arrived at New York from England, bringing two letters from his majesty's principal secretaries of State, dated the 13th and 31st of march ; in the latter of which, he received his majesty's orders to repair to England. On the 20th of june, major general Abercrombie arrived at New York with Otway's, and the highland regiments, from whence he went to Albany, in company with col. Webb, and the day following took upon himself the chief command of all his majesty's forces in North America. Mr. Shirley gave general Abercrombie a very particular account in writing, of the state of every part of his majesty's service under his care, with the strength of the regiments, garrisons, and works ; and also gave him his sentiments and advice in regard to the expeditions which were then in agitation, against the french. One of them, as it displays a great piece of bravery, I must be more particular in mentioning. It was a very gallant action under captain Bradstreet. That officer commanding the battoes in their way to Oswego, was attacked by a party of french and indians in ambuscade ; finding himself between two fires, he retired with great dexterity to a little island on the river, where, for some time, he defended himself with six men, against forty of the enemy, and obliged them to retire ; being reinforced, he attacked a large body infinitely superior to his own, and gained a complete victory over them, which was owing intirely to his own admirable conduct, and the astonishing bravery of his men.

In march last the earl of Loudon had been appointed commander in chief of all his majesty's forces in  
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