

not so rough, to attempt a descent upon that very spot, after making a feint to land at Laurenbec.

At midnight Amiral Boscawen sent all the boats, with the necessary complement of officers, to land the troops. The order of landing was in three divisions; and at the same time the Sutherland, Kingston and Halifax, &c. were directed to support the disembarking with a brisk fire. The Sutherland and Squirrel were to the right, just by Cape Blanc; the Kingston and Halifax to the left near Cape Cormoran; the Grammont, with the frigates Diana and Shannon, was in the centre.

In the mean time General Wolfe had received orders to send the light troops, and try whether they could not land upon some rocky parts that had always been judged inaccessible, and of course had been left unguarded. Accordingly he sent a hundred men, who were immediately killed or dispersed by the savages, and by some of our people, who flew to that part upon hearing the report of fire arms. About four o'clock in the morning the enemy tried to land to the left of the creek of Cormoran, with six hundred light troops, a whole battalion of Highlanders, and four companies of grenadiers, under the command of General Wolfe.

In the meanwhile, General Whitmore, pretended to land to the right of Cape Blanc; and General Lawrence, who commanded the centre, made a like feint at the soft water creek. Their intent was to divide our attention, and this was a very proper step for that purpose considering the smallness of our numbers. But we soon found out the main design of the enemy, when we saw that General Wolfe began to land his men at the creek of Cormoran. Yet nothing ought to have inspired us with a greater confidence than such an attempt: for this being, as I before observed, the weakest part, we had thrown up such entrenchments, that it was impossible for an enemy to land there with any success. We had two thousand regular troops drawn on the shore, and several savages posted in different parts. We were behind a good parapet, defended by several pieces of cannon within proper distances, and by stone mortars of a considerable bore; the whole covered with felled trees which were laid so close, that it would have been very difficult to pierce through them; even if they had not been defended by our troops under shelter. And as our batteries were masked by this palisade, so that at a distance the whole must have appeared to the enemy like a smooth field, we might have rendered this circumstance of the greatest service to us. We had even absolutely depended upon it, which was the reason of our not being so much alarmed at the weak condition of the town. For what did it signify to us, whether it was fortified or not, if we could hinder the enemy from landing? In so advantageous a position, on which our whole safety depended, we might have acted a much better part than that of keeping merely upon the defensive; and this would have been the case were it

not for an imprudent fire, for which we cannot condemn ourselves too much. As the enemy would naturally march up to us in expectation of finding only a few paltry entrenchments, which they could easily force, it was our business to let them continue in this error till they had all landed. Then we should have saluted them with our batteries and small arms; and in all probability, every man of them would have been either killed or drowned in re-embarking in a hurry. And so great a loss would, perhaps, disheartened the enemy to such a degree that they would never make another attempt.

But wherever success depends on command of temper, the French stand but an indifferent chance; as it appeared unfortunately upon this occasion. Scarcely had the enemy made a movement to draw near the shore, when we showed ourselves in a hurry to discover the snare into which they must have inevitably fallen. By our firing upon their boats they perceived our disposition; nay, we were so precipitate as to unmask it ourselves, by removing the boughs out of their places, whereby we unluckily convinced them of their great danger. Immediately they put back, and the loss they sustained on this occasion, instead of disheartening them only served to redouble their ardour. They now thought no place so proper for landing as that which we judged inaccessible. Major Scott, upon this occasion, performed a most gallant action: General Wolfe, who at that time was busy in re-embarking the troops, and putting off the boats, ordered him to climb up the rocks, where they had already sent a hundred men. The major went thither with the troops under his command; but his own boat arriving before the rest, and being staved to pieces the instant he landed, he climbed up the rock by himself. He was in hopes the hundred men who had been sent before him, were engaged by this time with our people, but seeing no more than ten, he resolved with this small number to get on top of the rocks.

There he found ten savages and three score French, who killed two of his men, and wounded three. Still this brave Englishman would not, even in this extremity, abandon a post, on which the success of the whole enterprise depended. He desired the five soldiers remaining not to be dismayed; and even went so far, as to threaten he would fire upon the first man that would flinch. In the mean time he had three balls lodged in his clothes, and would have had all the seventy Frenchmen upon him at once, were it not for a copse that was between them, and through which he fired a few shot. At length the hero (for I cannot help doing justice to his valour) was seconded by the rest of the English troops, who perceiving there was no other way to succeed, determined to run all risks in order to carry this point.

It is the interest of the conquered not to diminish the glory of the victor; and besides, it is our duty to do justice, even

to our mortal enemy. For which reason I confess, that the English on this occasion behaved with such valour, as before the event must have appeared temerity. Yet it must be allowed, that at the same time the difficulty of the enterprise does them infinite honour, it saves ours. Who could have foreseen that they would venture to climb up rocks, till then reckoned inaccessible, that notwithstanding their boats were every instant dashed in pieces and notwithstanding the surf which drove them back, and drowned great numbers, still they persisted, with their clothes all wet and their spirits almost exhausted, to mount the rocks, in defiance of our batteries from whence we played them most vigorously, as soon as we perceived their design.

The surprise we were thrown into by the boldness of this attempt, contributed greatly to its success; so that when the enemy attacked the battery which took them in flank, they carried it with ease. Besides it is very certain that notwithstanding we might have hindered their descent with a little more prudence and circumspection, yet neither one nor the other, nor even the most heroic bravery would have availed us, when once they had effected their descent. The best thing therefore we could do, was to retire, which we did the more precipitately, as we were informed that General Whitmore in the confusion we were under, had landed to the right of Cape Blanc. We had great reason to be afraid that he would have cut us off from Louisbourg, where we had left only three hundred men; for in that case all would have been over with us. Though our loss, on that fatal day, amounted to about two hundred men killed and taken prisoners; and though our town was in so bad a state of defence, still we did not despond. We had reason to expect we should not be deserted; and that M. de Montcalm, as we had been promised, would come with a squadron to our assistance.

In the meanwhile, we had left the enemy in possession of some provisions, and arms, and fourteen pieces of cannon, with twelve stone mortars, and two four-neaus for red hot balls, one of which was ready charged. As our flight could not be effected the directest way, and a great many of us were obliged to make our escape over rocks and morasses, we did not get under the cannon of Louisbourg, till ten o'clock in the morning. And then we ended this affair, in the same unlucky manner as we began it, with an act of imprudence. By a discharge from our ramparts, the enemy were apprized of the reach of our batteries, when we might have very easily foreseen, that they were at too great a distance to receive any detriment. Thus we regulated the situation of their camp, which accordingly they kept during the whole siege.

Sir Charles Hardy, who was cruising at the mouth of the harbour, to prevent our receiving any succor, could not hinder a French man of war from passing through his squadron by a help of a thick fog.