

there can be little doubt that some thought they were doing God service ; and the military feeling of the people was excited both by patriotism and religion. The flag was presented to the famous George Whitefield, who was then an itinerant preacher in New England, and he was pressed by Pepperal to favour him with a motto, suitable for the occasion. The inscription ' nil desperandum Christo duce' gave the expedition the air of a crusade, and many of his followers enlisted. One of them, a chaplain, carried on his shoulders a hatchet, with which he intended to destroy the images in the French Churches. Previous to the departure of the fleet, a despatch was sent to Commodore Warren, who was on the West India station, informing him of the contemplated attack on Louisburg, and soliciting his assistance and co-operation ; but he declined the invitation, on the score of having no orders, and that the expedition was wholly a provincial affair, undertaken without the assent, and perhaps without the knowledge, of the ministry. This was a severe disappointment to Governor Shirley, but being determined to make the attempt at all hazards, he concealed the information from the troops, and on the 4th of April they embarked for Canseau, where they arrived in safety : but were detained three weeks, waiting the dissolution of the ice, with which the coast of Cape Breton was environed. After Commodore Warren had returned an answer to Governor Shirley, he received instructions from England, founded on the communications which the latter had made on the subject, by which he was ordered to proceed directly to North America, and concert measures for the benefit of his Majesty's service. Hearing that the fleet had sailed, he steered direct for Canseau, and after a short consultation with General Pepperal, he proceeded to cruise before Louisburg, whither he was soon followed by the fleet and army, which arrived on the 13th of April, in Chaparouge Bay. The sight of the transports gave the first intelligence of the intended attack, for although the English had