

born in 1668 in Scotland had fought bravely in several European battles and had taken part in the ill-fated colonization scheme of the Isthmus of Darien. After the failure of the latter he went to New York. In 1700 soon after arriving he spent some months in Albany, and there married the daughter of Robert Livingston and niece of Peter Schuyler, being thus drawn into the family group in question, with all its activities, recollections and access to archives of the past war. In 1702 his name appears at a meeting of the Governor and Indian Commissioners with the chiefs of the Five Nations at Albany. He engaged in the wholesale fur trade into Canada from Albany, and traded by ship to Quebec from Boston. Being experienced in military matters and daring enterprises he took up again the scheme of 1690 for the conquest of Canada, and in pursuit of it examined carefully the approaches to that country both by Quebec and Montreal. He gathered all particulars about the previous expedition with a view to its renewal. In 1708 he went to England with the scheme; obtained favor at court for his plans and in 1709 was despatched to New York with instructions to several Governors of Provinces to take part in what he terms "this glorious enterprise." The phrase was a repetition of the "Soe glorious an enterprise" used by the Albany agents in their Memorial to Massachusetts of the 20th. of March 1689 which he must have read among the archives kept by his father-in-law (1) and was repeated at a

(1) N. Y., Doc. III, 697.