

succeeded in eluding the city's batteries. Wolfe returned to his camp on the Island of Orleans, to ruminate over his two alternatives. One of these was to land with a heavy force against Montcalm's centre, near the mouth of one of the Beauport streams, and there bring on a general engagement. The other was to march the bulk of his army across the Montmorency by the upper ford, and come on Montcalm from behind. But Admiral Saunders, with full faith in the correctness of Shipmaster's Cook soundings (see Note), told his colleague that it would be utterly impossible for any of his ships to sail near enough to the Beauport shore-line, to land troops or to cover them in their advance up to the enemy's line, after the redoubts had been demolished or forsaken; and the lesson learned at the lower ford of the Montmorency was too recent for any one to think of daring a repetition of the carnage that befell the Grenadiers and the Royal Americans in that engagement. This first alternative had therefore to be laid aside. The second alternative, namely, that of taking troops across by the upper ford, was likewise proven to be as hazardous as the first alternative, and when these two alternatives were finally dismissed from the General's mind, there was nothing for him to do but force his way up the main river, and there seek the easiest landing to the levels behind the city. Thus indirectly he would force Montcalm to forsake his formidable trenches and redoubts at Beauport, in order to find his way into the city by way of his bridge of boats, for its immediate protection.

The mistake of not having fortified the Levis side of the St. Lawrence had by this time begun to dawn upon those who had set aside Montcalm's suggestion