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A BRITISH REPORT ON CANADA, 1711

BY
JAMES F. KENNEY.



*Reprinted from The Canadian Historical Review,
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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

A BRITISH SECRET SERVICE REPORT ON CANADA, 1711¹

Among the officers who served in the expedition of 1710 against Port Royal in Acadia was a Major John Livingstone, of the family of Livingstons of New York. When Port Royal surrendered, General Nicholson and the English council of war determined to send Livingstone with despatches to Vaudreuil, the French governor, at Quebec. He was to be accompanied by the younger St. Castin, who was sent by Subercase, the French commander, to inform Vaudreuil of the loss of Acadia. Livingstone and St. Castin set out from Annapolis Basin on October 19 (O.S.) and, after a trying journey by way of the Penobscot River, arrived at Quebec on December 6, 1710. Major Livingstone has left an interesting journal of his visit to Canada, from the brief entries in which we can conclude that he was shown every courtesy and entertained royally by the authorities and people at Quebec. On January 10, Livingstone and two French envoys, Rouville and Dupuys, left Quebec on the return journey, proceeding this time up the north shore of the St. Lawrence as far as Lac St. Pierre, where they crossed to the south side and continued as far as Longueuil. From Longueuil they crossed to Chambly on the Richelieu River, and thence made their way by the Lake Champlain route and Albany to Boston, where they arrived February 23.

On March 20 Colonel Vetch, governor of the newly named Annapolis Royal, wrote from Boston that Major Livingstone was sailing for England, to lay a full account of his negotiations in Canada before the Queen and the ministry. Preparations had long been under way for the expedition against Quebec which Sir Hovenden Walker led with such ill success the following summer, and it was, doubtless, in connection therewith that the following report on the defences of Canada was prepared. In fact, we may believe that it was chiefly to obtain just this information that Livingstone was sent on his mission in the first instance.

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English, from time to time, to obtain information regarding the fortifications of Quebec and the condition of Canada. The most famous account was that prepared by Patrick Mackellar in 1757 and used by Wolfe (*Knox's Journal*, Champlain Society ed., vol. III, pp. 151-160). It may be compared with Livingstone's. The most illuminating parallel, however, to the present document—so far as it relates to the defences of Quebec—is the report of the French engineer, Chaussegros de Léry, in 1716 (*Documents relating to the History of the State of New York*, Vol. IX, pp. 872-874). Unfortunately the map which accompanied this report is not available, but we have another by the same hand of about the same date (*Report on Canadian Archives* for 1905, vol. I). For the rest of the colony, Livingstone's account should be compared with the contemporary one of Gédéon de Catalogne (*Documents relating to the Seigniorial Tenure*, ed. by W. B. Munro for the Champlain Society, pp. 94-151), and with the legends on the Murray Map of Canada (*Catalogue of Maps in the Dominion Archives*, App. C).

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[*Transcript.*]

1710

A View of Canada taken by Major John Livingstone
with Acco^t. of Fortifications and number of men

	QUEBECK	G. Guns	Pateraro's ¹
Decem ^r 27 th French	There is in Quebec Town ² Two hundred and fifty men of y ^e Melitia, and One hundred and fifty soldiers in y ^e kings pay, two batteries in y ^e Lower Town, the Westermost ³ has a street to y ^e Northward of it.	11	..
250	About Sixty yards off N E at y ^e River side . .	.1	..
150	About 100 yards farther N at y ^e River side is y ^e other Batterie ⁴ , six twenty four pounders, w ^h are y ^e biggest in y ^e Town6	..
	Upon y ^e Hill to y ^e Northward of y ^e Bishops house Lies a mortar alone		

¹ Pateraros, or pedreros, small cannon used for firing stones and broken iron.

² A plan of Quebec, prepared in 1720 or earlier by the engineer Chaussegros de Léry, is published in th *Report on Canadian Archives*, 1905, vol. I.

³ The *Batterie Royale*.

⁴ The *Batterie Dauphine*.

French	Indians	G. Guns.	Pater- aro's
	About 200 yards N N W turning y ^e Point to y ^e Little River ¹ in y ^e Priests Garden ² a brass mortar and five Guns.....	5	..
	As you goe Round to y ^e hospital ³ along the River.....	.3	..
	On the Right hand of y ^e way going Down to y ^e Intendants ⁴ five Guns, next y ^e Little River.....	.5	..
	A Little Farther along s ^d River Just by y ^e Intendants.....	.2	..
	And as you turn up, at y ^e Intendants, there is a Gate and a little above y ^t Gate is three Guns west, & a small Clockhouse upon y ^e works ⁵3	..
	And fifty yards farther S E as you goe up the Hill, is a Levell peice of Ground, & another Gate, ⁶ & a Little further up the Hill, is a Small watchhouse on y ^e works, and in it is.....	.3	..
	And from thence 'till you come to y ^e Stone-wall there is 2 or 3 halfe moons, one w ^{thin} another & 2 Guns Course S E.....	.2	..
	And on y ^e Top of y ^e Hill, in y ^e Stone wall is six Guns & a Gate ⁷ in s ^d wall.....	.6	..
	About 50 y ^{ds} within in s ^d wall N is a Square place made of bricks, & a house in y ^e middle of it, w ^h I call a Magazine & in it 5 Guns / ..	.5	..
	On y ^e Other side.....
	And N W. From this square there is a wind mill & a small Battery ⁸ of 5 Guns, and a little further N N W Two Guns.....	.7	..
	And along y ^e River at y ^e Stone wall upon		

¹ The River St. Charles.

² The grounds of the Seminary. Apparently on the site of the great battery (afterwards known as *Le Clergé en Barbette*, and still later as the Grand Battery).

³ The *Hôtel Dieu*.

⁴ The Intendant's Palace.

⁵ Probably the defences of *Coteau de la Potasse*. Livingstone's knowledge of the fortifications on the landward side of Quebec seems to have been but slight, and it is difficult to follow his topography.

⁶ Palace Gate.

⁷ St. Louis Gate.

⁸ Probably what was known as the *Cavalier du Moulin*, but Livingstone's description is obscure.

French	Indians	G. Guns.	Pater-aro's
	the hill, there is a Clock house ¹ I saw no Guns in it & further N E. upon ye Hill at ye top of it there is work hove up, ² and Stockadoes, till you come to ye Fort, ³ where is 17 Guns planted, against ye River, & 11 Patereroes, in this place ye Govern ^r Lives ⁴ . . .	17	11
	As you goe into ye Fort there is 11 Guns planted, and Over ye Little River at Bone Porto ⁵ is 2 Guns	13	..
	By Information		
400	Upon ye Island of Orleans there is 300 Families and can raise about four hundred men . . . At Shaterosha ⁶ five Guns near Cape Diamond ⁷5	..
400	At Shaterosha, Sharleboo ⁸ at ⁹ Bompre ¹⁰ , about Four hundred men all Melitia. This Island of Orleans lyes about a League below Quebec, and Shaterosha seven Leagues on ye N W. Shoar; Sharleboo at ⁹ Bompre, on s ^d Shoar near to Quebec all inhabited.		
50	Down ye River of Quebec fifteen Leagues at River dela, & Dormont, ¹¹ wh is on ye S E side of s ^d River about 50 families.		
50	At Lorette ¹² which makes ye Little River of Quebec about Four Leagues From s ^d Town, is an Indian Town, about fifty men.		
70	Of ye nation of Orquanshaws, which Inhabitt all along ye Great River of Quebec about 70 men		
70	On ye S E side of ye River Over against Quebec, of ye Stragling inhabitants, from the River De Lesolier to ye River Deleiu, ¹³ which is 18 Leagues there is about 70 men		
	From Quebec to a Village which is Called		

¹ Apparently what was known as the *Demi-Bastion de Joubert*.

² The Cape Diamond Redoubt.

³ Fort St. Louis.

⁴ The *Château St. Louis*, part of the fort.

⁵ Beauport.

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French	Indians	Guns.	Pater- aro's
	Ponta Tromble ¹ is 7 Leagues y ^e Inhabitants settled along y ^e River, including y ^e Village about 160 men by Observation/ ²		
40	From Ponta Tromble to Port Nuff ³ is seven Leagues, along y ^e River is a small fort y ^e inhabitants about forty men as you goe along.		
70	About 3 Leagues farther a Village Called Grondin ⁴ about 70 men		
40	Two Leagues farther a Seigniori called St Ann where is about forty men.		
90	And two Leagues farther a Village called Shamplin, ⁵ about 90 men		
100	Two Leagues farther a village called Bots-cank ⁶ about One hundred men		
70	And From thence to Troy River ⁷ wh is Four Leagues along s ^d River about 70 men		
160	At Troy River which is thirty Leagues above Quebeck, a place Stockadoed in, about 200 yards long, and near y ^e same breadth, in wh is severall housen, and is y ^e Govern ^r s Residence is seven Guns 80 soldiers, and about y ^e same number of Inhabitants.	7	
260	From Troy River to a place Called s ^t Fran-coise ⁸ wh place lyes on y ^e south East part of L. s ^t Peer, ⁹ about Forty inhabitants up s ^d River. And about Two Leagues farther up, an Indian fort called s ^t franswa ¹⁰ 260 men.		
70	From s ^t franswa to Sorrell is about four Leagues to y ^e fort in y ^e mouth of Shamblee River, ¹¹ where is forty soldiers, and about thirty Inhabitants		

¹ Pointe aux Trembles.² On his return journey up the St. Lawrence River.³ Portneuf.⁴ Grondines.⁵ Champlain.⁶ Batiscan. Livingstone has reversed the respective positions of Batiscan and Champlain. The same mistake occurs in the journal. Evidently both documents were written from memory or imperfect notes.⁷ Trois Rivières—Three Rivers.⁸ The seigniori of St. François.⁹ Lac St. Pierre.¹⁰ The Abenaki Indian village of St. François.¹¹ Richelieu River.

French	Indians	G. Guns.	Pater-aro's
	Up y ^e River Shamblee, about 18 Leagues to y ^e fort, is no inhabitants.		
	From Sorell by way of st Toer, ¹ Counter-cure ² Verseer, ³ & severall other Seigniorics, we have small forts, two Leagues y ^e one from y ^e other along the East side of Quebeck River up to Longolia ⁴ is 18 Leagues, For y ^e most part inhabited along y ^e River side, about 300 Inhabitants.		
300	From thence Cross y ^e woods 5 Leagues Course S E & by E upon y ^e River Shamblee is a stone Fort ⁵ / about 16 foot high, and as I Guess about 80 y ^{ds} one way and fifty y ^e other, Each Corner a Bastion, about Twenty Foot Out, six great Guns, 100 soldiers, and about 20 inhabitants, stands at y ^e foot of the riplings on y ^e N W Side of y ^e River.	.6	..
120	From Longolia to Laparee, de Muda Ane ⁶ we lies up Quebeck river is 4 Leagues there is a fort at s ^d villiage with four guns but out of Repair, and by information 100 inhabitants and 20 soldiers.	.4	..
120	From thence along s ^d River 2 Leagues an Indian fort called Nonoh-nowagoo, ⁷ 250 men There is some small force more up s ^d River which I could not gain Pticular Information of.		
250	<i>*sic</i> From Troy River along y ^e N W Side of ther* Great River to River De Lu ⁸ and so to y ^e End of y ^e Island of Mount Royall, we is 23 Leagues stragling inhabitants about 200		
200	From y ^e N E part of Mount Royall Island to y ^e Town of Mount Royall, (including the villiage of Ponta Tromble, ⁹ where there is a small Fort of stockadoes) being 7 Leagues, all y ^e inhabitants, including some of y ^e Islands of y ^e Great River are about 400 men.		
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¹ St. Ours.² Contrecœur.³ Verchères.⁴ Longueuil.⁵ Fort Chambly.⁶ La Prairie de la Magdelaine.⁷ Caughnawaga.⁸ Rivière du Loup.⁹ Pointe aux Trembles.

			G. Guns.	Peter- aro's
French	Indians	At the Town of Mount Royall we is all Stockadoed round with Cedar Stockadoes, about 16 Foot high, and Bastions ye Length of 1400 yds and 34 yds wide, 26 Guns, 11 Patereroes, 280 Officers & soldiers 300 Inhabitants.....	26	11
580		From thence to ye S W part of ye Island wh is ten Leagues inhabited scattering abt 150 men		
150		About 3 Leagues N W. from Mount Royall an Indian fort called Canowsadago, or L'Mountia ¹ where is 200 Indians		
	200	A Stone forte at Codroque we is 80 Leagues From Mt Royall up ye River called Fontenac ² at ye mouth of ye Lake called Codroque ⁴ where is 40 soldiers, as I guess about 8 Guns, no Inhabitants		
<hr/> 4070	<hr/> 830		<hr/> 145	<hr/> 22

¹ Canasadaga, or Kanesatake, an Iroquois word signifying "on the mountain side." The Christian Iroquois of this village, now settled at Oka on the Lake of Two Mountains, were, before 1720, at Sault au Récollet.

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