

lemaque was encamped at Isle au Noix with Three Battalions of Regulars, Five Pickets of Five other regular Battalions, with Canadians and La Marine, making 3500 Men, and that he had 100 Cannon; that the Enemy had four Vessels, viz. La Vigilante, a Schooner of 10 Guns, 6 and 4 Pounders; a Sloop called Maque Longuy of 2 Brads 12 Pounders, and 6 Iron 6 Pounders; La Brochette of 8 Guns, 6 and 4 Pounders; and L'Esturgeon of 8 Guns, 6 and 4 Pounders, besides Swivels mounted in all; that M. de le Bras, a Captain of a Man of War, commanded them, with M. Rigal, and other Sea Officers, and that Part of the Pickets of Languedoc, Bearn, and La Sarre, were on board. On this Intelligence, the General sent for Captain Loring, who was building a Brigantine at Ticonderoga, who came the next Day, and having acquainted him with the Force of the Enemy, the Captain thought the Brigantine would not be of sufficient Strength, and concluded on building a Radeau, to use its Gun on the Lake, as well as to transport them over the same. That on the 1st of September the General having learnt, that the Enemy had launched a new Vessel pierced for 16 Guns, he sent for Captain Loring, that a second Vessel might be built, if it could be done without retarding the other, as it appeared the Enemy was trying all they could to have a superior Force by Water; the Captain came on the 3d, and they concluded on building a Sloop for 16 Guns: That the utmost Diligence was used in building all the above Vessels: That on the 29th of September, the Radeau, 84 Feet in Length, and 20 in Breadth, to carry Six 24 Pounders, was launched; That on the 10th of October the Brigantine arrived at Crown Point; she has Six 6 Pounders, Twelve 4 Pounders, and 20 Swivels, 70 Seamen, and 60 Marines detached from the Troops: That on the 11th, the Sloop also arrived; she has Four 6 Pounders, Twelve 4 Pounders, and 22 Swivels, 60 Seamen, and 50 Marines, and is commanded by Lieutenant Grant of Montgomery's: That, in the Course of that very Day, the General, with the Troops under his Command, embarked in Batteaus; the Sloop and Brigantine got out about Four o'Clock, sailed with a fair Wind, and the Troops followed in Four Columns, with a Light hoisted in the Night on board the Radeau. The 12th at Day-break, the General heard some Guns; Major Gladin of Gage's sent him Word he saw the Vessels engaged, but soon after found his Mistake; and Major Reid, returning with some Batteaus of the Royal Highland Regiment, reported, the Sloops had fired on him; he had lost the Columns in the Night, followed the Light of the Brigantine for the Radeau, and at Day-break found himself amongst the Enemy's Sloops at les Isles au quatre Vent: They fired several Guns, and it is supposed struck one Batteau, as they took one with Lieutenant M'Koy, one Sergeant, one Corporal, and eighteen Men: Soon after the General saw the Enemy's Sloops make all the Sail they could: Towards Night bad Weather came on, and the General ordered the Troops into a Bay on the Western Shore to be covered from the Wind, which begun to blow hard, sent the Men on Shore to boil the Pots, and relieve themselves by walking about; ordered the Rangers on an Island, and Gage's advanced on the Shore. The 13th it blew a Storm, and quite contrary Wind; continued so all Day. On the 14th the General had Letters from Capt. Loring, and Capt. Abercrombie (one of his Aids de Camp whom he had put on board) that, on the 12th at Day-break, when they judged they were forty-five Miles down the Lake, they saw the Schooner, gave Chace, and unfortunately ran the Brigantine and Sloop a-Ground, but got both off again, and then saw the Enemy's Sloops, which they had passed in the Night, between them and the Army, and chafed to bring them to Action; drove them into a Bay on the Western Shore, and anchored so as to prevent their getting away. The next Day they sent into the Bay in Search of them, and found they had sunk two of them in five Fathom Water, and ran the 3d on Ground, and that the Crews were escaped; that Capt. Loring had ordered Capt. Grant, with the Sloop, to try to save the Vessel with the Stores, Guns, and Rigging;

and that he would go to his Station, and hoped to get between the Schooner and Isle au Noix. The Men, who brought the Letter, said, Capt. Loring was about thirty Miles off, and that it was impossible for a Boat to get back while the Wind continued. The 15th it blew a Storm all Night, and the Continuance of it that Day made the Lake impassable for Boats, the Waves running like the Sea in a Gale of Wind. The 16th it froze in the Night; and in the Morning no Change of Weather: The General remained in the same Place, where the Batteaus were very luckily covered from the Wind. The 17th the same contrary Wind continued: In the Afternoon, two Whaleboats, which the General had dispatched to Capt. Loring on the 13th, came back; the Crews said, they had been trying, since that Day, all they could to get down, but could not, and were forced to return. The 18th, the Wind came to the Southward; the General proceeded immediately down the Lake as far as the Place where the French Sloops were; one was so far repaired, that she sailed that Day with the Brigantine and Sloops. The General detached 200 Men in Whale-boats to assist Captain Loring in looking for the Schooner. The 19th the Wind being Northerly, and contrary, and an Appearance of Winter being set in, the General determined not to lose Time on the Lake by striving to get to the Isle au Noix, where he should arrive too late in the Season to force the Enemy from their fixed Post, but to return to Crown Point to complete the Works there as much as possible, before the Troops go into their Winter Quarters. The General returned with the Troops to the same Bay he came from, and, on the 20th, pursued his Route, and got within 12 Miles of Crown Point; sent the Light Infantry and Grenadiers, in Whale-boats, on to that Place, and left the Rangers, with the Radeau and Boats with Guns, which could not come on so fast. On the 21st, the General arrived at Crown Point. The General observes, that building Vessels had been a tedious Business: That they have now, tho' late, the entire Dominion of Lake Champlain, and he imagines that Capt. Loring will be able to weigh up the two Sloops which are sunk, and that he has directed him to do as he judges best. General Amherst says, that the Repairs at Ticonderoga are finished; that the Ground, on which he is building a Fort at Crown Point, is the best Situation he has seen in America; that it is no where commanded, and has all the Advantages of the Lake, and Strength of Ground, that can be desired; that for the better Defence of Crown Point, and to make the Fortress as formidable as he can, he has ordered, with the Advice of the Engineer, three Forts to be erected, which he has named the Grenadier Fort, Light Infantry Fort, and Gage's Light Infantry Fort, ordering those Corps to build each their own as fast as possible; and though the Fortress and dependant Forts will not be so completely finished as he intended they should be, yet he thinks he may assure, that they will be so respectable, that the Enemy can do nothing against them, should they attempt it: That he shall continue the Works at Crown Point so long as he possibly can, and shall then try to dispose of His Majesty's Troops in such Quarters, that they may effectually protect the County from any Inroads of the Enemy, not neglecting to have a due Regard to the Care and Preservation of the Health of the Men: That a Road had been cut from the Village to join one he had directed to be made from Ticonderoga for driving Cattle, &c. and that another Road had also been cut 77 Miles to N^o 4, to open a Communication from the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Governments to Crown Point: That the Works he has been carrying on have been frequently interrupted by the wet Weather, there having been, by all Accounts, more Rain this Summer, than any People remember in the Country. General Amherst adds, that the Provincials begin to grow sick, and lose some Men; that they are excellent Ax-men; that the Works could not be carried on without them; and that the Zeal and Activity of their Colonels is of the greatest Assistance in forwarding the Works.

General