

Letter Bk. II. you will excuse the Liberty I presume to hint my Opinion farther to your Lordship. You have been ee'r this informed what is doing to the Northward; that Colonel Monkton has succeeded in Nova Scotia to the utmost of his Expectations we have lately had the Satisfaction to hear & we also entertain very sanguine hopes that Colonel Johnson with the Provincial Troops will make a successful Attempt on Crown Point (Fort Frederick) as we are told the Garrison therein is at this time very inconsiderable, Governor Shirley's & S^r W Pepperell's Regiments are at this time engaged in making Oswego Fort more defensible & in building Gallies on Ontario Lake whereby it is hoped they will be Masters thereof & be enabled to make an easy Descent on the French Fort at Niagara. but should the French from the Ohio immediately reinforce their Garrison at that place before Shirley can execute the Business or Part he undertook to act at this time, his Enterprize may be also rendered abortive & himself be obliged to act on the Defensive only, however I entertain warm hopes that by fortifying on Ontario Lake & building Vessels thereon he will secure the Navigation thro it & cut off all Communication between Canada & the Ohio by water. I think that the Militia Law which has been lately made by the Legislature of New York will remove & obviate any Difficulty that there might otherwise have been in conveying him Provisions which I beleive are seldom scarce in that Province & can be Water-born almost from N York to Oswego. If the Ohio Garrison can be thus deprived of Supplies from Canada I think they cannot but be greatly distressed for want of Provision shortly, & will no doubt make Incursions into & supply themselves from these three defenceless Colonies which however we could easily prevent if our People would but be persuaded of the Necessity of a Law to regulate the Militia as I suppose Y^r Ldp will think when you are told that we have in this Province 18.000 Men fit to bear Arms. Could some Artillery be procured & w^d these Colonies unite & exert themselves, the Season is not yet too far advanced to pursue the General's plan by attacking Fort du Quesne in the temperate months of 7^{ber} 8^{ber} & 9^{ber} but as we have no Artillery in this Part of His Majestys Dominions, & there being little Probability of the Colonies uniting or acting with unanimity, I am afraid the Troops under the Command of Colo. Dunbar will scarcely proceed to Action again before Instructions can be received from England unless he marches with some of them Northward to support Shirley or to Enfort himself somewhere in the distant Parts of Pensilv^a near the Easternmost Branch of the Ohio River. I am apt to think as I above hinted that what the French will now have principally in view & will leave no Stone unturned to accomplish is the