

was left to the Enemy & destroyed by Colonel Dunbar in Obedience to General Braddock's Order I have not been able to procure; but I have in general learnt that the Enemy have taken 52 Carriages including the Train, 18 Waggon Loads of Ammunition & 90 fat Oxen that were drove up two Days before the Engagement. We cannot yet learn how great was the Number of the Enemy that opposed the English but it is beleived twas pretty considerable tho no Body will assert that he saw a hundred during the Action w^{ch} continued more than 3 hours. but it is not difficult to account for this when they inform us that the Attack was made principally by Indians & that they divided & posted themselves behind the Trees which grew on the Eminencies that were on the Right Flank & in the Front of our Men. Our Troops fired away all their Ammunition before they left the field, but they did it (it is said) in a good deal of Confusion & fear so that many were destroyed by the hands of their Friends, about 800 or 900 Stand of Arms are supposed to have fallen into the Enemy's hands with every individual thing that had been carried over the Monongahela River three quarters of a Mile from the Western Bank of which the Action happened. I have not lately received any Lett^r from the Northw^d but the Gazettes inform us that the Troops in Nova Scotia have succeeded to their wishes having dispossessed the French of all the Forts that they had built in that part of the Continent, & I entertain hopes that Colonel Johnson will reduce Crown Point, but indeed I am not without some Apprehensions on Governor Shirley's Account. The possession of the Lakes is of the greatest Importance to the French, the Well Being of their more Southern & Inland Settlements depends entirely thereon therefore I doubt not they will leave nothing unattempted to interrupt his Operations & if possible make themselves Masters of Oswego Fort: We are told that a great number of the Indians & French Troops that were at Fort Du Quesne are gone upward with that Design & the probability thereof inclines us to beleive the Report. The Ships of war that were at the Capes under the Command of Commodore Kepple are sailed to join Admiral Boscawen on the Coast of Nova Scotia. Our not receiving any farther Advices from that Quarter makes us fear that the Rest of the French Fleet have passed him & are gone up St Lawrence River. As soon as I receive any farther Intelligence I shall take the Liberty of addressing myself again to your Ldp & I hope I shall by the next opportunity have better news to communicate than what has been the Subject of this & my last Lett^r I am &c.

Letter Bk. I.

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