

His Majesty's Will & Pleasure that if then the said General Braddock should find it necessary to march his whole Force to make himself Master of the Posts before mentioned at Niagara he should take the most prudent means of Joining his said Force with the British Batalions to effect that most essential & necessary Service.

6^{thly} That if the said General Braddock should find that the two British Regiments would be sufficient for performing the Service at Niagara, he might then employ the two American Regiments at the same time in Dispossing the French from their Posts at Crown Point on the Lake Champlain, which was the next point he was to endeavour to gain, but that no positive Instructions could be given him on this head, as he could only judge thereafter, whether such a seperate Operation could be undertaken at the same time that he was making himself Master of the most Material one at Niagara, however that after he should have possessed himself of the Niagara Forts & should have opened a safe Communication betwixt that & Oswego it was His Majesty's Will & pleasure that the next Service which he should proceed upon should be

7^{thly} The Reduction of the Fort at Crown Point & Erecting another upon the Lake Champlain in such place as he should find most effectual for Bridling the French Indians in those Parts & for securing & protecting the Neighbouring Colonies—

His Excellency thereupon observed to the Council that the Reasons assigned in His Majesty's Instructions for ordering General Braddock to begin his Operations upon the Ohio seems to be principally founded on some information which had been given that the Support of the French Forts & Settlements upon that River is drawn from their Settlements upon the Mississippi.

His Excellency the General then acquainted the Council that none of the Attempts made for effecting the before mentioned Services in the last Summer had been carried into Execution but that these several before mentioned Parts of the Expedition ordered by His Majesty remained to be executed in the ensuing Spring—

His Excellency then observed to the Council that the only practicable Entrance which His Majesty's Subjects have into the Lake Ontario is at Oswego thro the River Onondaga which is the only Harbour fit to receive Vessels of any Force that His Majesty hath upon that Lake & that Oswego is situated in the Country of the Onondagoes which lies in the middle of that Inhabited by the Six Nations & is the only Trading House the English have for carrying on a Commerce & Correspondence with the Western Indians That the only practicable Entrance the French have into the same Lake is thro the River by them