

at first called the River Iroquoise but in some of their late Maps the River S^t Lawrence, & near Fort Frontenac which is situated on the North East Edge of that Lake at about 50 Miles Distance from & nearly opposite to Oswego, that whilst the French are in possession of that Fort & the Harbour there with a free Passage into the Lake thro the River Iroquois together with their Harbour at Tronto on the Lake they will have it in their power to build & maintain Vessels of Force upon the Lake which unless His Majesty shall keep up at least an equal Naval Force there, may not only greatly annoy any Fort which should be erected by His Majesty's Subjects at the North East End of the Pass at Niagara, but endanger the Loss of Oswego itself to the French which would inevitably be attended with the Defection of the several Castles of the Indians of the Six Nations to the French Interest in a short time & with the Loss of the whole Country as far as Schenectady, & very possibly be soon followed with the Loss of the City of Albany—

That from the best Information he can procure it appears to him that the French Forts & Settlements at Niagara upon Lake Erie & the Ohio & even as far as Misilimakinack upon the Lake Huron are wholly supported with Stores & provisions from Montreal by Water Carriage thro the River Iroquois & across the Lake Ontario & not from the French Settlements on the Mississippi which being at near the Distance of 2000 Miles from any of them are too remote to afford them any Support, especially as the Navigation from thence to the French Settlements on the Ohio is against the Stream & attended with other Difficulties in many Places That consequently the Dislodging the French from Fort Frontenac & their small Fort at Tronto & barring up their Entrance into the Lake Ontario thro the River Iroquois would cut off all their Forts & Settlements upon that & the other Lakes & the River Ohio from all Support from Canada without which they could not possibly long subsist—

That therefore His Excellency proposes the following Plan of Operations for the ensuing year Viz.

That a Body of 5000 Troops should be assembled at Oswego by the last week in April & Fort Frontenac & La Galette upon the River Oswegatie be attacked with 4000 of them in the beginning of May leaving 1000 at Oswego for the Protection of that place.

That after dislodging the French Troops at Cataracui & La Galette they should be employed in attacking the French Forts & Settlements at Niagara Presqu' Isle the River au Beuf, Detroit & Misilimakinac & to secure the several Posts there; That 3000 Troops should at the same time be marched to Fort Duquesne by Land from Wills's Creek to attack that Fort.