

Letter Bk. I. that General Abercromby has met with in an Attempt to force an Intrenchment which the French had made at a small Distance from Ticonderoga. I understand that the General has been much blamed for not giving himself time to look about him & reconnoitre the Enemy & the Adjacent Country which they say he might easily have done & that instead of marching up his whole Army to the Face of the Intrenchment which in the French Phrase was tout garni he might have landed some of his Troops on the Eastern Side of Lake George or rather of the Streight that joins the two Lakes & have raised a Battery there so as to have annoyed the Enemy greatly & divided their Force. He is also much censured for having ordered the Retreat to be beat as soon as the Troops had been once repulsed, but he is above all condemned for having brought back his whole Army of 14.000 Men over the Lake immediately after the Action when he was sensible by the Enemy's not pursuing that there Numbers were much inferiour to those whereof he had the Command; Had he encamped & intrenched himself they say on the Enemy's Side of the Lake he would at least have been on an equal Footing with them & would have kept them in Awe, he had the sole Command of Lake George & had several hundred Battoes on it ready to bring him Provisions or to bring back his Army when he could stay there no longer but by retiring so precipitately as that the Troops left behind them their Provisions & Baggage he has made the Enemy confident & left them at Liberty to pour down their Troops to the Ohio to oppose General Forbes or to send Reinforcements to Cape Breton where they may be landed on the Westernmost part of the Island & as some say be able to throw themselves into the Town notwithstanding the Precautions that have been taken by our Generals to prevent the Success of such an Attempt. All that I have heard offered in Defence of General Abercromby's Conduct is that the Attack was made agreeable to the opinion of a Council of War, that after it was begun many of the Provincials behaved very ill & that in particular one whole Corps of the

p. 369 New England Troops peremptorily refused to take the Post that was assigned them or to attack the Intrenchment notwithstanding they were thereunto urged by three or four hundred of our Indian Allies who were next them & who offered to support them in such an Attack. The Consequence of this Affair will I am afraid be severely felt by the Northern Colonies, they are again reduced to the Necessity of carrying on a Defensive War only & by such a one We must be always Losers; God forbid that we should be again reduced to that necessity in this Part of America I entertain hopes that that will not be the Case but that in about a month I shall

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