

Majestys Will and Pleasure, that the next Service he should proceed upon should be, Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

7^{thly} The Reduction of the Fort at Crown Point and Erecting another upon the Lake Champlain, in such place as he should find most Effectual for Bridling the French Indians in those parts and for Securing and protecting the Neighbouring Colonies

His Excellency thereupon observed to the Council that the Reasons Assigned in his Majestys 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 and Settlements upon the Missisippe

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 these Several before mentioned Parts of the Expedition Ordered by his Majesty Remained to be Executed in the Ensuing Spring. p. 77

His Excellency then observed to the Council that the only Practicable Entrance which his Majestys Subjects have into the Lake Ontario is at Oswego thro the River Onondago which is the only Harbour fit to Receive Vessels of any force that his Majesty hath upon that Lake and that Oswego is Situated in the Country of the Onondagges, which lies in the Middle of that Inhabited by the Six Nations and is the only Trading house the English have for Carrying on a Commerce & Corrispondents with the Western Indians: That the only practicable Enterance the French have into the same Lake is thro the River by them at first called the River Iroquois, but in Some of their late Maps, the River St Lawrence, and near Fort Frontinac, which is Situated on the North East Edge of that Lake and about 50 Miles distant from & nearly oposite to Oswego, that whilst the French are in Possession of that Fort and the Harbour there with a free Passage into the Lake thro the River Iroquois together with their Harbour at Fronto, 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 Majestys 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, and with the Loss of the whole Country as far