

every Part of the said Expedition into Execution at one and the same time was Sufficient, or whether any Less or Greater Number might be Sufficient to Do it. Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

His Excellency then Observed to the Council that if the beforementioned Attempts for the Reduction of the French Forts and Settlements upon the Lake & the Ohio, & Crown Point should not be made at the same time but one of them only Carried on at a time these Dangers would ensue, Viz^t If an Attempt should be made upon the Lake Ontario for the Reduction of the Forts at Cataraqui & Niagara &c. without any against Crown Point the French would either bend the Chief part of the whole Force of Canada to Oppose it, in which Case so large a Body of Troops would be required to encounter it there as would make the Transportation of them & their Stores & Provisions to Oswego, in time almost impracticable or else the French would Muster so Strong a Force against Albany as might take it and by that means Likewise Cutt of all Communication between it and the Forces at Oswego which must Receive its whole Support of Stores and Provisions from thence

On the other hand if an Attempt should be made for the Reduction of Crown Point only and not against Fort Cataraqui, Niagara &c. at the same time Oswego which from the Intelligence gained at that Place appears to be the great Object of the French, would be in danger of being lost to them in Case they should bend their Principal Force against it which Loss would be an irretrievable one to the English, as it would not only be Loss, of the Country as far as Albany together with the Six Nations but give the French the Dominion of the Great Lakes and the whole Southern Country.

His Excellency then acquainted the Council that immediately before his Departure from Oswego as well as Since he has had Received Intelligence that the French are Building at least three large Vessels of Force in the Harbour of Cataraqui which together with those they had already built will be much Superior to those built by us, on the Lake, whereupon he likewise desires the Opinion & Advice of the Council Concerning his Causing more Vessels to be built and of a Larger Force upon the Lake than what his Majesty hath there already and how many such Vessels it is Necessary to have built for gaining the Mastery of that Lake p. 79

The Council after taking the Several Matters into Consideration gave it as their unanimous opinion. 1st That it is most essentially necessary at all to Secure the Navigation of the Lake Ontario, and from the Intelligence the General has Informed them he has already Received of Vessels Building