

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 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 Onondago 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 & Correspondence with the Western Indians: That the only practicable Entrance 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 Frontenac, which is situated on the North East Edge of that Lake and about 50 Miles distant from & nearly opposite 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 Fronte, on the Lake, they will have it in their Power to build & maintain Vessels of Force upon the Lake, which, unless his Majesty's 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 Lake, 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 as Schenectady, and very possible 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 and Settlements at Niagara, upon Lake Erie & the Ohio and even as far as Missidimachinack upon the Lake Huron are wholly supported with Stores and Provisions from Montreal by Water Carriage thro' the River Iroquois and a Coast of the Lake Ontario and 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 and attended with other difficulties in many Places.

That consequently the Dislodging the French from Fort Frontenac & their small Fort at Fronte, and barring up their Entrance into the Lake Ontario thro' the River Iroquois would cut off all their Forts & Settlements upon that and the other Lakes and the River Ohio from all Support from Canada without which they could not possibly long Subsist.

That therefore his Excellency Proposes the following Plan for the ensuing Year viz.

That a Body of 5000 Troops should be assembled at Oswego by the last Week in April, and Fort Frontenac on La Gallette upon the River Oswegatic be attacked with 4000 of them & in the beginning of May leaving 1000 at Oswego for the Protection of that Place.