

1777.

French Garrisons both at Cataracui & Niagara were found to be very strong, The General has employed his Troops in strengthening Oswego with other works & left for the Defence thereof this winter about 900 Men of his own & 2 Regiments under the Command of Lieut Col. Mercer we have at present on the Lake a Sloop & Schooner that carry 6 Carriage & 20 Swivel Guns each but as the French are building Vessels of greater Force at Cataracui to dispute the Navigation of y^e Lake with us next Summer it is said General Shirley will order some Vessels of ~~Tonnage~~ more than 100 Ton Burthen to be set on the Stocks immediately & a great Number of Whale Boats to be built this winter as they are found most proper for the Navigation of the Lake than Battoes or any other small Craft. General Johnson is building a Fort at the place where he was Encamped when the French attacked him the 8th Sept it is about 40 Miles on this Side Crown Point on an Arm of Lake George & 70 Miles from Albany. It was reported that the two British Regiments would receive the Provincials & garrison the Fort on Lake George this winter but tis now said that a sufficient Number of General Johnson's own Troops will be left there & that the Regiments will take up their winter Quarters at Albany where Barracks are building for their Reception. I am told the General finds himself impowered & is come to a Resolution to raise two more Regiments in these Colonies, as it is very likely His Majesty has not yet appointed any Colonels to such Regiments