

(Fort Frederick) as we are told the Garrison there is at this time <sup>very</sup> very inconsiderable. Governor Shirley's & Col. Pepperell's Regiments are at this time engaged in making Oswego Fort more defensible by building Gallies on Ontario Lake whereby it is hoped they will be Masters thereof & be enabled to make an easy Descent on the French Fort at Niagara, but should the French from the Ohio immediately reinforce their Garrison at that place before Shirley can execute the business on that Part he undertook to act at this time, his Enterprize may be also rendered abortive & himself be obliged to act on the Defensive only, however I entertain warm hopes that by fortifying on Ontario Lake & building Vessels thereon he will secure the Navigation thro it & cut off all Communication between Canada & the Ohio by water. I think that the Militia Law which has been lately made by the Legislature of New York will remove & obviate any Difficulty that there might otherwise have been in conveying him Provisions which I believe are seldom scarce in that Province & can be water-borne almost from New York to Oswego. If the Ohio Garrison can be thus deprived of Supplies from Canada I think they cannot but be greatly distressed for want of Provision shortly, & will no doubt make Incursions into & supply themselves from these three defenceless Colonies, which however we could easily prevent if our People would but be persuaded of the Necessity of a Law to regulate the Militia as I suppose Mr Ld<sup>r</sup> will think when you are told that we have in this Province 10,000 Men fit to bear Arms. Could some Artillery be procured & w<sup>d</sup> these Colonies unite & exert themselves, the Season is not yet too far advanced to pursue the General's Plan by attacking Fort du