

show people; an Opportunity of monopolizing the Trade  
with the distant Nations, has secured to them a  
short & easy Communication, between their Northern &  
Southern Colonies - As they are Masters of Ontario  
Lake by means of their strong & well garrisoned  
Fort thereon named Cataracui; & the Nature of the  
Adjacent Country renders a Road to Niagara by  
Land impracticable, they have not hitherto given  
themselves much trouble to render that Place more  
defensible than Nature has made it imagining  
for the two Reasons just mentioned that the  
English would never attempt the Conquest of  
it however strongly its vast importance might in-  
vite them thereto - At present we have only a  
Trading House distinguished sometimes by the Appella-  
tion of Oswego - Fort on Ontario Lake where  
perhaps 50 or 60 Men from the New York Inde-  
pendant Companies may now be posted, but by  
what I can find the French may make themselves  
Masters thereof at a very small Expence & without  
much Difficulty just when they please; unless some  
of the Indians should insist on its being a Place  
of Neutrality as they did during the late War between  
the two Crowns; should the Indians appear less  
desirous of reserving that Place to the English at  
present - (which indeed I am somewhat suspicious