

affairs of their own to undertake throwing obstacles in our way. They were expecting anything rather than a siege; but I hardly know from what cause their confidence sprang. The vicinity of the forts was occupied by a multitude of tents, which at our arrival were still standing. We observed there a number of barracks, well fitted to favor the besiegers. The enemy were obliged to clear the outworks, take down the tents and burn the barracks; these movements could not be made without their being exposed to many volleys on the part of the Savages, who are always ready to avail themselves of advantages that are given to them. Their fire would have been more active and more deadly if another object had not attracted part of their attention. Herds of cattle and horses, which the enemy had not had time to put in safety, were roving on the lowlands situated in the neighborhood of the fort. The Savages at once gave their whole attention to chasing these animals; a hundred and fifty oxen killed or taken, and fifty horses, were the first-fruits of this little war; but this was only one of the precursors and preparations of the siege.

Fort George was a square flanked by four bastions; the curtains had fraises, the ditches were dug to the depth of eighteen or twenty feet, and the scarp and counterscarp were embanked with moving sand. The walls were formed of large pine-trees, filled in with earthwork, and sustained by extremely heavy stakes; this gave them a terre-plein of fifteen to eighteen feet, which they had taken care to sand entirely. Four or five hundred men defended the fort, with the aid of nineteen guns—two of which were of thirty-six, the others of less caliber,—and