

with four or five mortars. The place was not protected by any other outwork than a fortified rock faced with palisades secured by heaps of stones. The garrison consisted of seventeen hundred men, and continually relieved that of the fort. The chief defense of this intrenchment was its position, which overlooked the surrounding country, and which was accessible to artillery only on the side of the fort, as mountains and swamps skirted the different avenues leading to it. Such was fort George, according to the information which I gained on the spot after the surrender of the place; it was not possible to invest it and entirely block all the ways to it. Six thousand Frenchmen or Canadians and seventeen hundred Savages, who formed our whole force, were not sufficient for the immense amount of ground that it would have been necessary to encircle in order to succeed in this; hardly would twenty thousand men have been able to do it. Accordingly, the enemy always possessed a back door by which they could slip into the woods,—which could have served them as an advantageous resource if they had not had the Savages in front; but a person rarely escapes from their hands in this way. Besides, the quarters of the Savages were placed on the Lydis road,—so close to the neighborhood of the woods, and where they were so often on the scout, that it would indeed have been risking life to seek an asylum in that direction. At a short distance were quartered the Canadians, holding the summit of the mountains, and always in condition to assist the Savages. Lastly the regular troops who came from France—to whom properly belonged the hardships of the siege—occupied the edge of the wood, very near the ground where the