

trenches were to be opened; then followed the reserve, composed of sufficient troops to protect it from every attack.

These arrangements having been made, Monsieur the Marquis de Montcalm sent to the enemy some propositions, which would have spared them much blood and many tears had they been accepted. The summons was couched in nearly the following words, and was addressed to Monsieur Moreau,³¹ Commandant of the fort in the name of His Britannic Majesty. *Sir: I have come with troops sufficient to carry the place you hold, and to cut off all aid which might come to you from elsewhere. I number among my soldiers a crowd of Savage Tribes, whom the least shedding of blood might exasperate to the point of rooting out in them forever all feelings of moderation and clemency. Love of humanity urges me to summon you to yield at a time when it will not be impossible for me to make them agree to terms honorable for you and advantageous for all. I have, etc. Signed, Montcalm.* The bearer of the letter was Monsieur Fontbrane, Aide-de-camp of Monsieur de Levi. He was received by Messieurs the English Officers, several of whom were his acquaintances, with a politeness and consideration from which the laws of honor excuse no person when he makes war like an honest man. But this favorable reception decided nothing as to the surrender of the fort, as was shown by the answer. Here it is: *Monsieur the General Montcalm: I am especially obliged to you for the kind offers that you make me, but I cannot accept them. I am little afraid of barbarity; besides, I have under my orders Soldiers who are determined, like myself, to die or to conquer. I have, etc. Signed, Moreau.* The haughtiness of this answer was