

know our intention of attacking the English until we have arrived at the point whence I shall send to tell the Iroquois by some of their nation that I am not come to wage war against them but only to reduce the English.

“As the batteaux cannot proceed farther than the carrying place, my intention is to erect there a small log-fort, which I shall build in three days, and to leave two hundred men in it to guard the batteaux; thence to march direct to [Port] Orange, embarking our supplies on the river in canoes, which we shall bring and which can be conveyed by land, we marching with the troops along the river as an escort.

“I hope to seize in passing some English villages and settlements where I shall find provisions and the conveniences for attacking the town of Orange.

“This town is about as large as Montreal, surrounded by palisades, at one end of which is a fort of earth, defended by palisades and has four bastions. There is a garrison of one hundred and fifty men of three companies in the fort and some pieces of cannon. The town of Orange may contain about one hundred and fifty houses and three hundred inhabitants capable of bearing arms, the majority of whom are Dutch, besides a number of French refugees and some English people.

“After having invested the town and summoned it to surrender, with the promise not to pillage it if it capitulate, I propose, in case of resistance, to cut or burn the palisades, in order to afford an opening, and enter there sword in hand and seize the fort. These palisades, which are only about fourteen feet high, can easily be scaled by means of the conveniences we shall find when masters of the town, or by blowing in the gate with a few petards or two small field pieces, which may be of use to me and which I shall find the means of conveying there.

“After I shall have become master of the town and the fort of Orange, which I expect to accomplish before the English can furnish it any succor, my intention is to leave a garrison of two hundred men in the fort with sufficient supplies which I shall find in the city, and to disarm all the inhabitants, granting, at his majesty's pleasure, pardon to the French deserters and inhabitants I shall find there, that they may follow me.

“I shall seize all the vessels, batteaux, and canoes that are at Orange to embark my force on the river which is navigable down to Manathe, and I shall forward with the troops the necessary provisions and ammunition, and some pieces of cannon taken from Fort Orange to serve in the attack on Manathe. * * * *

“It is necessary for the success of this expedition that his majesty shall give orders to two of the ships of war destined this year to escort the merchantmen going to Canada and Acadie [from France], or the fishermen going [from