

their weakness, with her superior weight of metal she might easily have sent the whole convoy to the bottom.

The Massachusetts troops had arrived on the 4th, so that the combined land and naval forces of the colonies, numbering about 4500 men, were collected in readiness for the approaching struggle.

On the morning of the 30th, the fleet crossed the bar, and approached the town, piloted by the fishermen of Marblehead and New London. The surprise of the garrison at sight of this armament, which, seen in the offing, they had supposed to be privateers in wait for their trading craft, was complete, but at the tap of the drum, they sprang to arms, and a detachment of 150 men under command of Col. Bouladrie, was sent to resist the landing of the troops.

Gen. Wolcot, however, with Yankee shrewdness, made a feint of landing at one point, while Col. Burr, with his men, wading the surf, reached the shore at another, and were drawn up in line of battle before the enemy could cover the distance between them.

Then followed a sharp skirmish in which the French were utterly routed, and fled, leaving their commander, Bouladrie, and half their number in the hands of the victors.

Thus the initial step of the campaign, that of gaining a safe landing for the troops, was accomplished.

From their camp that night, Wolcott and Burr could take in at a glance, the whole line of coast and the defences of the enemy. Hard by, two miles away, was the grand battery, armed with thirty forty-two pounders, and commanding the harbor and city.

Nearly opposite their position, on an island of the bay, was the island battery, mounting the same number of 28-pounders.

Between the town and the mainland lay a morass two miles wide and impassable for horses, and when this was passed, the fosse 80 feet wide, and the ramparts 30 feet high, and mounting 65 cannon of different calibres, still interposed between the invaders and the city.

In the batteries and the fortress were posted 600 regulars and 1300 militia, well armed and provisioned for five or six months, and in addition, an irregular force of half breeds and Indians was ambushed in the neighboring forests, and was available under certain contingencies.