

PREFATORY NOTE.

The campaign against Louisbourg of which an account is given in the following Journal was one of the most noteworthy military efforts of the British Colonies in America prior to the outbreak of their war for independence. Participated in by soldiers from the New England colonies alone, the campaign had been the object of correspondence between Gov. William Shirley of Massachusetts and other provincial governors as far west as Pennsylvania and all America felt a peculiar interest in the outcome of the expedition, because of the fact that no land forces of the Mother Country had a share in the enterprise. The support of the British fleet was considered unessential and the ensuing success became a lesson to the American colonies in that it impressed them with the idea of their power when united. Followed by the military training of the later wars with France in America, the lesson of the Louisbourg expedition was never forgotten.

The war of 1744, known in America as King George's war, had been declared by France on Mar. 15, but was not proclaimed in Boston until June 2. Meanwhile Canso had been taken on May 13 by a force of 900 men sent out from Louisbourg, and this was followed by an expedition against Annapolis from the same post. The second effort was foiled by the vigilance of Governor Shirley of Massachusetts who had reached the conclusion that a forward movement was the best line of defense and was planning the attack upon Cape Breton Island. Communicating his designs to the various New England governors or legislatures in January 1745, he wrote also to Commodore Peter Warren then in command of the British fleet in the West Indies with the result that by March the expedition was ready to set sail for Louisbourg.

It has been questioned whether or not Shirley originated the plan for this forward movement. By some the credit has been given to Judge Robert Auchmuty and by others to William Vaughan. The opening statement of the Pepperrell Journal seems to leave no doubt but that the author considered Shirley as the prime mover in the enterprise. Although in his letter of Nov. 4, 1745, to Capt. Henry Stafford (Preface to *An Accurate Journal and Account*) Pepperrell states "it must be confessed that there would have been no Expedition against this Place, had I not undertook it," these words may well be taken as referring to the general satisfaction felt with the selection of the writer as Commander-in-Chief for the expedition and the interest which he took in forwarding Shirley's plans. Pepperrell claimed that he contributed some £10,000 to the expenses of the campaign, and the expenditure of Massachusetts was much heavier. In the letter already quoted Pepperrell urged that the colony should be reimbursed for the debt incurred lest she "be so involved as never to be able to get clear of it." This was done some four years later when Great Britain, after handing Louisbourg back to France, gave the colonies nearly £200,000 for their share of the expense of its capture.

Pepperrell's eagerness to lead the expedition is queried by Hutchinson (*Hist. Mass. Bay II*, 412) who states that he "was rather pressed into the service than voluntarily engaged." However this may be, the former declared after the capture, "As I had the Honour to command the Troops that were the Means of reducing the Place I dont think it can be expected that I should continue here under the command of another person." The news of the outcome of the campaign was received with pride in England. Warren was made an admiral, Shirley and Pepperrell given commissions as colonels, and the latter, in addition, was created a baronet, the only native of New England, as Parsons states in his life of Pepperrell, so honored during America's connection with the Mother Country. These honors might well be given to the participants in this victory. The capture of Louisbourg was

the one brilliant success gained by Great Britain during the war.

The Journal of the Expedition here printed was presented to the American Antiquarian Society April 27, 1818, by Dr. George Bates of Boston. The manuscript covers 40 pages and is in the hand of Benjamin Green, Secretary to Pepperrell during the campaign. None of the original journals or accounts of the enterprise gives a more complete record of the movements of the American forces and so far as known it is the most important journal remaining unpublished at this time. In printing, the arrangement of the manuscript has been followed except that a few entries, misplaced in the original text have here been given in their chronological sequence.

A short bibliography of the expedition giving some of the more important publications has been added, but no attempt has been made to cite all volumes dealing with this campaign against Louisbourg.

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