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Whitehall, July 29, 1755.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Lawrence to Sir Thomas Robinson. Dated Halifax, June 28, 1755.

I HAVE the Honour to acquaint you, that the French Fort at Beaufejour surrendered to Lieutenant Colonel Monckton the 16th Instant, and the next Day a small Fort upon the River Gaspereau, running into the Bay Verte, where the French had their principal Magazine for supplying the French Inhabitants and Indians. In these Forts were found a great Quantity of Provisions, and Stores of all Kinds, of which Colonel Monckton has not yet had Time to transmit me a particular Account. I inclose you the Terms of Capitulation. Notwithstanding the Fort at Beaufejour had 26 Pieces of Cannon mounted, they surrendered, after four Days Bombardment, before we had even mounted a single Cannon upon our Batteries. Our Loss, upon this Occasion, is very inconsiderable, not above 20 killed, and as many wounded. Major Preble of the Irregulars is slightly wounded in the Shoulder; Ensign Tonge, of Major General Warburton's Regiment, acting as Sub-Engineer, received a Shot in his Thigh, as he was taking a Survey of the Ground for the Trenches and Batteries to be raised against the Fort; and Ensign Hay, of Colonel Hopson's, who had been taken Prisoner by the Indians, in going alone from our Fort to the Camp, was killed by one of our Shells in the French Fort, which fell through a Sort of Casemat, and also killed three French Officers, and wounded two more.

At Colonel Monckton's first Arrival, the French had a large Number of Inhabitants and Indians, 450 of which were posted at a Blockhouse, which they had on their Side of the River Messaguash, to defend the Pass of that River: Here they had thrown up a strong Breast-work of Timber for covering their Men, and had Cannon mounted in the Blockhouse. At this Place they made a Stand for about an Hour, but were forced by our Troops with some Loss, leaving their Blockhouse, and the Pass of the River, clear for our People, who marched, without further Interruption, to the Ground intended for their Encampment. As we had not Men enough to invest the Fort entirely, several got away; and, when the Fort surrendered, there remained 150 Regulars, and about 300 Inhabitants, several of which, with their Officers, were wounded. We do not yet, exactly, know the Numbers that were killed in the Fort, but we believe their Loss has not been trifling, as several lay half buried upon the Parade. Colonel Monckton has new named the Fort, and called it Fort Cumberland. He gives the Troops, under his Command, great Praise for their good Behaviour, and the Spirit and Resolution with which they acted upon this Occasion.

Colonel Monckton is proceeding to the Fort at St. John's River, which I flatter myself will give him very little Trouble, as their main Strength, which was Beaufejour, is gone: He has likewise my Orders to leave a Garrison in that Fort, as it is an infinitely better one than ours, as well for Situation, as Strength. The deserted French Inhabitants are delivering up their Arms. I have given him Orders to drive them out of the Country, at all Events; tho' if he wants their Assistance in putting the Troops under Cover, (as the Barracks in the French Fort were demolished) he may first make them do all the Service in their Power. Our Possession of the Isthmus, it is to be hoped, will bring over the Mickmack Indians to our Interest.

I cannot close my Letter to you, Sir, without taking Notice how much I am obliged to Lieutenant Colonel Monckton's Military Skill, and good Conduct, for our Success at Beaufejour; Captain Rous, who commanded the Naval Part of this Expedition, has been of the greatest Service to it, and I have Reason to believe our succeeding so soon, and with so little Loss, is much owing to the good Management of Mr. Brewse, who acted there as chief Engineer.

[Price Two-pence.]

Proposition

