

Letter Bk. III them & shall think myself extreemly fortunate if by your means I shall ever get from the Gov<sup>t</sup> any considerable part of the money which appears to be due to me by the inclosed Account.

You have I doubt not before this time received particular Advices of the Reduction of the French Fort at Niagara by Sr W<sup>m</sup> Johnson & of the Enemy's having on the Approach of General Amherst thought it prudent to abandon their Posts at Ticonderoga & Crown Point, Events which encouraged even the General to hope that all Canada would be reduced before the End of the Summer, such a Conquest however I am afraid cannot be made this Campaign, as General Amherst was still at Crown Point the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. not daring to venture down Lake Champlain till he should have some Vessels launch't w<sup>ch</sup> might be able to encounter those which the French had before built on that Lake. The Siege of Niagara was begun in a very lucky hour for had it been delayed a Day or two longer the French & Indians who were assembled at Venango would have fallen down the Ohio & attacked Pittsburg the Garrison whereof was by no means formidable, far from being well supplied with Provisions & the Fort scarcely proof against Musquetry; Brig<sup>r</sup> Stanwix was then on the Frontiers of Pens<sup>a</sup> unable as it was said to proceed for want of Waggons; soon after Niagara surrendered the Enemy's Forces on this Side the Lakes being vastly reduced by their unsuccessful Attempt to raise the Siege of that place they thought it was impossible for them to keep Post any longer on the Ohio if Brig<sup>r</sup> Stanwix should choose to act offensively & therefore at once abandoned & destroyed their several Forts on the South Side of Lake Erie & on the Head Branches of the Ohio whereby they have left us Masters of that River with all the Country on this Side of it & the Indians seeing at length that the French cannot protect them are now become very tractable & quiet. I presume you receive Accounts of General Wolfe's operations almost as soon as we get Advice of them & that before this can reach you you will know for certain what hath been or must be the Issue of the St Lawrence Expedition, however lest that should not be the Case I shall inclose you a Gazette which contains the latest Articles of News that have been sent us from that River which shew I think that His Majesty's Troops in that Quarter have not been idle this Summer, but I am afraid they are not sufficiently numerous for the Service on which they are employed & as to a Junction between M<sup>r</sup> Wolfe & General Amherst this Campaign I suppose there is not now any room to hope for it.