

**JOURNAL**  
*of*  
**THE PRINCIPAL OCCURENCES**  
*during*  
**THE SIEGE OF QUEBEC**  
*by*  
**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONISTS**  
*under*  
**GENERALS MONTGOMERY and ARNOLD**  
**IN 1775=76**

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Containing many anecdotes of interest never yet published—  
Collected from the Old Manuscripts originally written by  
an officer during the period of the gallant defence  
made by SIR GUY CARLETON.

EDITED BY W. T. P. SHORT

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## Journal of the Principal Occurrences during the Siege of Quebec by the Ame- rican Revolutionists under Generals Montgomery and Arnold in 1775-76

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... DEC. 1775.

From the 1st to the 8th of this month our redoubted foe, General Montgomery, in conjunction with his colleague in arms, Colonel Arnold, and other officers in the rebel army, (who have lately figured as the principal chieftains of the insurgent forces, leagued together for our destruction,) prepared to besiege us in form; and after taking possession of the principal houses in the neighborhood of the town, employed all the inhabitants in the laborious task of cutting fascines, and opening lines of circumvallation; which account we learn from numerous deserters. On the 5th. of this month Montgomery, who it appears had taken possession of the parish of St. Croix, two miles from this City, at first posted himself there with some field artillery, having landed his heavy cannon at Cap Rouge, beyond the Heights of Abraham—Arnold's detachment taking possession in the interim of the Grande Allee from St. Louis' Gate, and the other principal avenues, so as to cut off all communication with the country. On the 7th, several letters addressed to the principal merchants, and written in an imperious strain, Came in, advising immediate submission, and promising manifold indulgence in case of their compliance with such an unreasonable demand. They were clandestinely introduced to the garrison by some perfidious female, who brought likewise an epistle to Genl. Guy Carleton, our Governor, written in very strange

terms, and demanding in peremptory language a surrender of the town; but he took no further notice of the insidious conduct of the rebels, beyond imprisoning the messenger for a short time, and then ordering her to be drummed out, as she deserved.

9th. Received information that the enemy were preparing to erect a heavy battery, on a spot situated on the heights, a little above the bark mill, at the end of St. John's Suburbs; all this day a constant fire of small arms was kept up from the village of St. Rocks, in which they have intrenched themselves, on the two-gun battery (*en barbette*) next the barracks, but did no execution. From a late hour this evening, till about three o'clock in the morning, they threw thirty-five shells into the garrison, from behind Mr. Grant's garden wall, (say *cohorn*s) but none of them did any damage, although they burst in every direction. The upper town much alarmed at hearing the reports of these unexpected winged messengers, "portending hollow truce," from the hideous orifice of our adversaries' thunderers—

10th. This morning at daylight the enemy's battery, hitherto masked, of five cannon and a howitzer, (which seemingly consisted entirely of fascines, and had been hastily thrown up in the darkness of the preceding night, like the Bunker's Hill intrenchment), appeared on the face of the mill above-mentioned, about 700 yards from the walls, which was only exposed to the guns from St. John's Gate, and the fortifications downwards, from which quarters a constant fire of two twelve, and two twenty-four pounders, was kept up all day upon the insurgents, which annoyed them greatly, and is said to have done considerable execution among their working detachments. At noon a sallying party was sent out to destroy several large houses nigh St. John's Gate; but finding much difficulty in pulling them down, they were fired; a circumstance which, although the result of inevitable necessity, the governor afterwards disapproved of. After burning all night, and destroying about six houses more, the fire went out of itself. At one o'clock in the morning the enemy began

again to throw their shells from the same quarter, and in the space of three hours sent in the critical number 45, but did no damage whatever: (if they elevate their mortars to that range, they may indeed amuse themselves as they please, but do us very trifling injury:) in return we threw several into their battery and post at St. Rock's, which seemed to fall as directed.

11th. Busied all day in supplying the hospital with rugs, canvas, etc., for bedding—to provide for casualties, and ensure the safety of any who may suffer from the inclemency of the weather. In the afternoon a corporal of the Royal Emigrants was unfortunately killed on the two-gun battery, by a musket ball from St. Rocks. In the course of this evening, and till late in the morning, the enemy sent in thirty-five shells but like the others, these did little or no damage, so that their ill-omened attempts at reducing us by bombardment alone, appear completely ineffectual, and have not made the best impression on the body of our citizens.

12th. The garrison busied all day in bringing more guns to bear on the enemy's works:—mounted two 32-pounders and two ten-inch howitzers on the ramparts, which with the others keep up a constant fire of round and grape, and have made very good shots. The inhabitants of the town say that the militia and sailors murmur much at the governor's not allowing them to burn that hornet's nest, St. Rocks and St. John's Suburbs, and thereby drive the besiegers at once from the strong holds they possess.—Two Yankees killed by our marksmen, from the two-gun battery, with musket-shot.

13th. Nothing particular:—kept up a constant fire of shells and round shot on the enemy's works. Still annoyed from St. Rocks with small arms; the balls from which whistle round our fatigue parties on duty, who nevertheless are providing measures for soon returning them the compliment in a handsomer style.

14th. Preparing mortars and royals for throwing shells; all day kept up a constant fire from our different batteries on the enemy's works, having opened

the Cavalier Redoubt, consisting of two thirty-six, and two thirty-two pounders, besides a flanker from Cape Diamond, which are all directed so as materially to annoy the besiegers at their fortifications, and to sweep away all that appear from the ground within the range of their destructive influence.

15th. The enemy opened their battery upon us this morning at daylight, from which they continued to fire till nine o'clock, with the intention of making a practicable breach, when it suddenly ceased playing, either owing to their guns having bursted, or to the powder magazine or caissons having blown up: at half past ten o'clock they sent a flag of truce; but the governor, Sir Guy Carleton, would neither admit it, nor listen to their proposals. On receiving a message to this effect from the ramparts, they replied that the inhabitants were to blame, and that the Governor would answer the consequences, and then marched off towards the general hospital.

About two o'clock they again began their fire from the battery, which lasted till dark, without doing any material damage; at the same time, they threw in about twenty shells, and at night sent in about fifteen more, without any effect. Our batteries kept up a well-directed fire all day, which did a great deal of damage, and during the night as well as day threw a number of shells into their battery and St. Rocks. Employed in giving out materials to make 2000 sand-bags or gabions, to repair the embrasures.

16th. As soon as daylight appeared we reopened our battery on the enemy, the guns of which were played off incessantly till night, and seemed to annoy them very much, by a well-directed fire, conducted by Captain McKenzie of the Hunter sloop of war, and Captain Goseling of the merchant service, who acted as gunners. At half past two the enemy again opened their battery; but instead of five, they could only make use of three of their cannon, the largest of which were only twelve-pounders: however, they kept up a fire of shot and shells till dark, without doing any material damage except throwing down a few chimneys, and

one of their cohorns bursted in a house near St. John's Gate, which in some measure destroyed it, and wounded a little boy, but not dangerously. From the number of the Yankees visible about St. Rocks in the dark, and particularly in the Intendant's palace, we were suspicious of an attack in the night, and a heavy snow-storm which began to fall late, seemed to encourage their designs, and to increase our fears.

17th. Just as we supposed, it turned out; for about a quarter before five o'clock in the morning the alarm was given both by ringing of the town bells, and beating of drums; on which, to the great honor of the inhabitants, every one of them repaired to their alarm-posts immediately, where they waited for further orders: at the same time care was taken to support the weakest and most suspected places. After remaining some time under arms, we were informed that no real attack had been actually made, but that the number of the enemy descried approaching towards Palace Gate had increased in proportion to the fears of the sentry, who swore that he had seen thousands of them advancing towards his post; and so positive was he in his opinion (although the morning was very dark and gloomy), that he insisted they formed seven deep, and that there seemed no end to their line. In short, a few discharges of small arms was all that was heard; a circumstance rather singular than otherwise, ever since the enemy took possession of S. Rocks.

The governor appeared about seven o'clock, and after thanking the inhabitants for their alacrity, dismissed them. During the course of the day a heavy firing commenced from St. John's Suburbs, at the sentinels on the lines, which was soon silenced by a twenty-four pounder, loaded with case-shot. During the night a few shells were thrown in from them, and a number returned from our howitzers. Not a shot from their battery this day, nor is there a person to be seen in it: we have imagined it is abandoned, and considered untenable. The inhabitants of the suburbs were afterwards seen marching home with their spades and pick-axes on their shoulders: we supposed that they were tired of acting as pioneers, and of raising batteries,

which they have seen so soon destroyed by the galling fire of destructive missiles from our guns.

18th. Learnt this morning that some person in woman's clothing had been killed the evening before going towards Palace Gate, in the dusk. About noon one of the emigrants was wounded by a musket-ball from the enemy's marksmen in St. Rocks. In the evening the enemy threw into the town about twenty shells, but they all burst without doing us any damage. During the night many were thrown into St. Rocks by our gunners, some of which were thirteen-inch shells. A canoe from Point Levi came over to Lower Town in the course of the day, with four men: they were immediately conducted to the governor, who suspected they came over for no good purpose, (although they brought a little provision with them for sale) and ordered them immediately back under the escort to the water-side. It seems there is a party of about 50 of the enemy in that neighborhood, who, it appears, (if we can believe the rascals who have just embarked) prevent them from sending their provisions into town. But attend to the absurdity: a party of fifty rebels hinders a body of from 4 to 5,000 Canadians from doing as they please, showing them to be a set of traitorous, faithless, ungrateful villains.

Colonel McLean this day received a letter from some friend without, which is fraught with very agreeable information; such as that the besiegers are greatly dissatisfied with their general's proceedings, and that their body of men appears backward in doing the duty required of them; also that there is a great scarcity of gunpowder, as well as of cannon and musket-balls among them—intelligence which afforded us great satisfaction.

19th. Everything is quiet; busy in fortifying the town and mounting cannon; one of the emigrants deserted to our foes in the night over the wall of the Sally Port, while posted there on sentry: the enemy threw in a few shells without doing any damage. Threw a great many also from the garrison in return.

20th. This day several letters came into town,



which confirms what had been written to Colonel McLean, and also desire the governor to beware of the machination of some of the Captains of the militia; they can be no others than those of the French part of the population; a secret correspondence being kept up, it is said, through that channel, by which the enemy is made acquainted with everything that passes within the town. These accounts further mention, that among the rebel forces there are actually not more than 300 true-blooded Yankees, and 400 apostate Canadians from above, under arms, together with 300 of the inhabitants of this neighborhood, forced into their service; in all 1500 men, employed in the siege: but were they twice the number, we have now little to fear, the town being so well fortified. We are also informed that the enemy is retreating up the country, probably in consequence of the severity of the winter. This evening we threw a great many shells into St. Rocks, and fired it in two different places; but there being little or no wind, the conflagration ceased, and was completely extinguished in the morning, without doing great damage. It is confidently asserted, that the person disguised in woman's attire, mentioned as having been killed at St. Rocks, turned out to be the enemy's chief engineer in disguise, and that draughts of the suburbs were found in his pockets. About half past five o'clock this morning an alarm was given by the sentinels at the Saut du Matelot, (some of the faithful) and the great bell was set ringing; but on the rumour being found out to be a false one, it was stopped, and but a few of the inhabitants turned out, who immediately retired again to their respective habitations.

21st. Employed in preparing carcasses, (to pour defiance into the mouths of the rebels artillery,) and fixing wall-pieces round the garrison.

Only a few musket-shots fired from St. Rocks. The block-house behind the Hotel Dieu was completely finished, and the one at Cape Diamond very much advanced. Very few of the enemy seen today. Another emigrant is said to have deserted over the battery behind the barracks.

22nd. The sentinel above-mentioned, it seems, did not desert, but committed a most unsoldierlike offence; for being taken ill on his post, he went directly home to his barracks, without acquainting the guard. Late last night a young gentleman, clerk to Lieutenant-Colonel Caldwell, who had been taken prisoner about the time St. Bruit was burned, came into the town by way of Drummond's wharf, and brought in one of the enemy with him, having got under our guns, (the French militia having the guard), without being challenged; he gives an account of great preparations making among the besiegers for storming the town: confirms their number as being in all about 1500, and that their general's head-quarters were at Holland House, on the St. Foy Road: that Montgomery resolved on making a grand attack between that evening and Christmas, having assured his party that they should most certainly dine in town on or before that day. He likewise maintains that great numbers were infected by that dreadful scourge the small-pox, and that they had many killed as well as wounded during the period of their working the guns at their battery. In short, that they were very much dissatisfied with the general situation of affairs; but that General Montgomery, with the promise of giving to each man who would volunteer to mount the wall with him the sum of 100 £, had gained their assent to hazard an attack.

All this matter being corroborated by his associate, extraordinary pickets, and additional guards, were ordered. Continued throwing shells as usual into St. Rocks.

23rd. Most of the Town under arms, in expectation of an attack; but nothing material happened. Busy all day in mounting more flanking guns. One of the emigrants killed from St. Rocks, while standing sentinel on the two-gun battery. In the evening a deserter came in; but on examining him closely, his accounts were so contradictory, both in regard to their numbers and intentions that little or no credit was given him; on the contrary, we suspected he only came in as a spy, to mislead us by false or supposititious information, and if possible to desert again to the enemy

with intelligence; in consequence of which, instead of being well treated, as he seemed to expect, he was sent to gaol. He formerly did duty in this town with the 52nd. regiment, when quartered here, and marched off with his comrades when they were ordered to Boston; so that it is imagined he deserted that corps in the dubious skirmish which took place at Lexington in Kentuel, as he mentions having been present in that affair, but was left wounded on the field, and afterwards forced by threatening measures into the enemy's service. A few of the besiegers seen about the heights, and in St. Rocks. Threw shells into the enemy's position all night. Still all quiet.

24th. The volunteer picket continued, in expectation of an attack. Busy in mounting more flanking guns. Nothing else particular. All the posts were re-inforced and the night passed away in tranquility. The usual proceeding of annoying our foes, by throwing shells, regularly continued.

25th. Still employed in bringing up more heavy cannon to bear on the works of the besiegers. Last night one of the British Militia unfortunately killed a sergeant of the Royal Emigrants, it is said in a quarrel, havng shot him dead on the spot.

26th. The volunteer picket continued under arms. This morning the coroner's inquest sat on the body of the man who was shot yesterday, and after due examination, brought in the verdict, murder. About noon we received intelligence that about 350 of the enemy had got into St. Rocks last night, with their scaling ladders, and meditated a decisive stroke this evening; in consequence of which, every one was on the spot, expecting they would attempt to carry the town by a coup de main: but the night passed in silence on their side; on ours. we continued to throw shells from our guns as usual, and to keep a strict look out, at the advanced posts, for fear their intentions should be verified, to our peril and damage, and that any ambuscades may be frustrated, which their sulking parties may attempt to form, being determined to oppose them, however numerous, with the utmost vigor.

27th. The volunteer picket still continued. Employed in reinforcing the different out-posts, and destroying out-houses, which might shelter the besiegers. A few cannon fired at the suburb of Minues, to drive the rebels from their lodgment there. Mounted more guns in the lower town during the evening. Shells at night as usual, from the howitzers.

28th. The volunteer picket mounted guard as usual; but everything passed in tranquility. Nothing else this day worthy of relation. These deceptive calms, however, we fear, forebode a sharp storm, and carry some great events in their bosom, from what we can at present discover.

29th. This morning early another deserter came in, who confirmed the information which we had received, regarding their intentions of attacking us by surprise, and also agreed in his account with that of Mr. Wolfe, of their numbers; in consequence of which most of the out-posts were reinforced, and more cannon mounted today.

30th. Very quiet all day. Only a few of the enemy to be seen. Fired a few shots at their out-guard at St. Rocks, and threw a great number of shells this evening into that neighborhood. The Volunteer picket continued as usual.

31st. The darkness of last night, and the gloominess of the morning, seemed fit for the blackest designs, and, as many suspected, would effectually encourage the blow meant and planned against this place; and so it turned out: for about half past five o'clock in the morning we were all alarmed at our pickets with the report of an attack being made by the enemy: in consequence of which the alarm bell of the cathedral rung, and all the drums beat to arms; during which they sent in a number of shells from their battery, (whilst we were stationed in the quarter of Recollects) which burst in all directions with a great crash, and served to increase the alarm of those who yet remained in the interior of the fortress. Colonel McLean was informed by a person just come from the grand battery that the post of Saut de Matelot was in

possession of the enemy; upon hearing which we repaired to the lower town to reinforce the guard, but on arriving at the place of action, found all in disorder and confusion; learnt that a number of the other picket who had advanced too precipitately, were made prisoners along with Adjutant Mills of the British Militia, and that Captain Lester had narrowly escaped. This being the situation of things, there was no keeping of any order among either the few British or French Militia, who had repaired to the assistance of this post, for there were two other attacks made at the same time. Day-light appearing, in some small degree relieved our distress, and removed a considerable share of anxiety, but even then we found there were no proper commanders, at least any whose authority had sufficient weight with the people so as to keep them to the charge or lead them on. Our out-post was thus surprised, without, I may freely say, firing a gun; the guard and advanced parties being made prisoners; and the enemy having thus gained possession of the barrier after a short struggle, advanced to the narrow pass that leads to the lower town, and took possession of the houses as they came along, from the back parts of which a constant fire of musket-shot was kept up by them, and returned by us under the best cover we could find at this critical juncture; for had the enemy pushed boldly on through the defile, having got under our last barrier in the Saut au Matelot they must certainly have carried it. While things were at this crisis, a most seasonable reinforcement of the heroic band of volunteers arrived, aided by the volunteer company formed by the captains of our merchant-vessels, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Caldwell, Captain Nairn, and Lieutenant Anderson (the latter of whom was killed by a shot through the head); and being thus aided by such able officers, things soon bore a very different aspect; for having disposed of the greatest part of the whole body in the neighboring houses (say Captain Gill's, Mr. Vialar's, and Lymburner's) from which places we kept up a constant fire of musketry, we prevented the enemy from getting over our barrier, or advancing by any other quarter;

at this very moment a sailor got upon the stage behind the barrier-gate, and laid hold of a scaling-ladder, which the rebels had put up and were attempting to ascend, and pulled it over his head. This we mounted against an end-window, which faced the street, being that of the house next the barrier-gate, in which the enemy had made a lodgment, when a Mr. Dambourgesse, doing duty in the Royal Emigrants as an officer, and Captain Nairn of the same corps. mounted the ladder, followed by many others, and having forced the window, made themselves very soon masters of the place, after killing one of the enemy on the spot, and wounding several others. In this place they continued intrenched for nearly an hour, during which time the fire of small arms from both sides was kept up extremely hot and galling, in which dispute the British Militia were the only corps that suffered; the first man killed was a servant of Mr. Drummond, at the corner of Flanigan's Hangard; a servant of Mr. Renaud was also wounded in the thigh, and a Mr. Lester mortally wounded at the end of Mr. Lymburner's gallery; Charles Daley was also wounded in the mouth, while firing the great gun, in the redoubt which enfiladed the street from the 2nd. barrier gate, and a Mr. Fraser, ship-builder, was shot dead by my side at the two pair of stairs' window in Lymburner's house; however, these horrid spectacles wrought but little on our minds, who were determined to fight to the last; for notwithstanding these unhappy accidents, the firing on our side never ceased until such time as victory declared in our favor, a circumstance as unexpected as singular, for about nine o'clock we found ourselves in possession of nearly 200 prisoners, with our friends formerly taken released, and busy in escorting them off. How we were conquerers at a juncture when we imagined all lost, and at a time when we so little expected it, you will now be informed, viz. The governor being apprised by repeated messengers, some voluntary, while others were ordered to carry him intelligence to the castle, in rotation of duty, how likely the lower town was to fall into the hands of the enemy, they having forced our out-post, and nearly gained our last barrier, he, in consequence of this, with the greatest coolness,

ordered an immediate sortie to be made from Palace Gate to outflank them, conducted by Captain Lawes of the Royal Engineers, which party was covered by a Captain McDougal of the Royal Emigrants, and this body had no sooner gained the bottom of the hill than they fell in with the rearguard of the enemy, who were so much confounded at so unexpected an attack, that they immediately threw down their arms, and submitted themselves prisoners without firing a shot. Captain Lawes kept boldly advancing (leaving McDougal to dispose of the enemy who had fallen into his hands, as was thought proper) and soon gained the out-post at Saut du Matelot, which he entered without opposition, none of his party having as yet come up, and rushes into the midst of the rebels crying out, with the greatest sang froid, "You are all my prisoners." If the rear party, which consisted of upwards of 300, were astonished at being made prisoners so unexpectedly, you may well conceive the surprise of those who had made themselves masters of our post, at being addressed in such language. "How," said they, "your prisoners? you are ours." "No, no, my dear creatures," replied he, "I vow to God you are all mine, don't mistake yourselves." "But where are your men?" "O, ho," says he, "make yourselves easy about that matter, they are all about here, and will be with you in a twinkling." Conversation to that purpose, for near ten minutes, was carried on, during which period a proposal was made to kill him, which was overruled; in the interim his party arrived, made themselves masters of the post, and placing the enemy between two fires, secured it, with the assistance of Captain McDougal. Thus was the whole body of the enemy which had taken possession of the Saut du Matelot were made prisoners. In this manner we within the town were released from impending ruin through this unexpected manoeuvre of the general, by which means their whole party was either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners; among the former were three officers, and 50 privates; 44 were wounded. On our side we had only five killed and about twice as many wounded, (say thirteen, two of whom are since dead.) The total amount of prisoners taken was 427,

thirty-two of whom were officers, including Lieutenant-Colonel Green, Major Biclowe, and many others of note.

Thus ended the attack of the Saut du Matelot, which was conducted in person by our old acquaintance Arnold, who being wounded in the leg, during the approach, was carried off to the general hospital; as soon as the enemy were seen approaching, a constant fire of musketry was kept up from behind the barracks all along by the pickets, to the Saut du Matelot battery, on their advancing party, by which great numbers were killed and wounded. Several of the former were not yet covered with the snow, of which there was a great fall immediately after they were found, and victory was scarcely declared in the town, when the enemy made another attack at Près de Ville, near Drummond's Wharf, and the Potash, of which many of the town were ignorant—this body was repulsed, leaving behind them nine killed and two wounded. A party of the garrison was afterwards ordered to sally out to St. Rocks, which, after bringing in a 6-pounder brass field-piece with the small mortars, shells, &c., of the enemy's battery, set fire to almost the whole village of St. Rocks, beginning a little below Palace Gate, taking in McCord's street, the Intendant's palace, and the whole of that neighborhood, with several houses near the Saut du Matelot, which were all entirely consumed before next morning. Thus ended the glorious operations of a day which threatened destruction to Quebec and its inhabitants, with the total subversion of the whole province. Let us therefore, with one voice, express our gratitude to the King of kings for our miraculous preservation: for the Almighty was with us in the day of distress; the Lord of Hosts severely smote our enemy: they were overwhelmed as with a whirlwind, and left us triumphant to gather them up and lead them into captivity; for which blessing, glory, honour and praise be to the Most High. At a subsequent period, St. Silvester's day, (so named in the Roman Calendar from a bishop of Rome in 314), the anniversary of this contest was commemorated by the survivors, as a festival, with the usual solemnities observed on such an occasion.



JAN. 1ST., 1776.

Everything quiet during the night. In the morning two Canadians came in, thinking the lower town in possession of the enemy, who, upon being carried to the main guard and examined, reported that they had come from the general hospital that morning, where there was no account given of General Montgomery. This intelligence, joined to the circumstance of a fur cap, marked in the bottom R. M., having been brought in, immediately led us to suspect that he must have been killed in leading his men on to the attack of our outpost at Près de Ville. A Canadian, also, named Gagne, who had been out plundering, having found a considerable sum of money on the body of one of the rebel officers, orders were sent down to bring up all the dead bodies from that quarter, amongst which were found by a sergeant and drummer, who went out, (fortunately for us) General Montgomery also his aide-camp Captain McPherson, a Captain Cheesman of their artillery, and a general's orderly sergeant, all lying dead together, pierced with wounds. This unexpected discovery gave new spirits to the town, and greatly relieved us from the apprehensions of any second attack. The prisoners, officers and men, appear much pleased with their usage, it being greatly beyond their expectations. A great many shells thrown into the farther part of St. Rocks; otherwise all quiet.

2nd. Nothing remarkable all day:—the governor down surveying the post at Sault du Matelot, and giving fresh orders in regard to its fortifications. All the militia under orders to attend the sombre funeral of our late companions, Messrs. Fraser and Kenzie, who were slain during the conflict of the 31st.

3rd. Several prisoners were brought in, among whom was an officer, having come too nigh the walls, thinking their friends were in possession of the lower town; they all agreed that the report of all the country was that the lower town was taken, and that no accounts had reached them of General Montgomery's death; on the contrary, a report was spread that General Carleton was killed. A firing of small arms heard

towards St. Foye, but in no way accounted for. Continued to throw shells as usual. This day Major Meigs, prisoner, was allowed to go out of town to collect and bring in all the officers baggage, and is to return on the 5th instant.

4th. Every thing quiet. This day attended the funeral of our late comrade Mr. John Lester, who was mortally wounded on the 31st ult.

5th. No accounts this day worth rehearsing; only that one of our friendly citizens, John McCord, came to town, and had an audience with Captain Fraser over the ramparts.

6th. This day all well. Nicholas Marchant was tried for the murder of Niel Nicolson, as formerly mentioned; when the jury, on mature consideration, brought it in manslaughter.

7th. This morning two Frenchmen and a savage, taken prisoners, were set at liberty, and sent over among the Point Levi people: for what purpose is not yet known. Three Canadians taken prisoners while plundering without the walls.

8th. This morning we were informed that General Wooster had arrived from Montreal to take the command of the rebels without; and that the detachment of troops he commanded there were all ordered down to reinforce them. At parade time 100 of the prisoners taken on the 31st ult. (being all old Britons) entered voluntarily into Colonel McLean's corps of Royal Emigrants, to do duty with them till the first of June next (each of them having received a dollar to drink, on their swearing the oath of allegiance to King George), after which period they are to be discharged, and sent home at the expense of government, should they be inclined to leave the province; at the same time whatever baggage they had left in the country was sent into town, from the camp of their late associates. The volunteer picket discontinued for the present. Every thing quiet.

9th. Nothing to-day remarkable on either side. An easterly storm has continued blowing with great vehemence incessantly for the last three days.

10th. Clear weather:—fatigue parties out, employed in clearing away the snow from the guns and walls. Busied in making new barriers to the lower town, and fortifying the Saut de Matelot.

11th. Every thing quiet:—not even a surmise to-day, in or without the town.

12th. The same:—only three more Canadians who had been taken prisoners, and a savage, set at liberty, and crossed for Point Levi, along with three Recollect Friars.

13th. Busy in erecting a mortar battery to play upon the farther houses of S. Rocks, where the enemy station their main guard; a foraging party out today for fire-wood, and also square timber.

16th. This morning a Recollect Friar went out at Palace Gate and walked over the ice to Beauport; and the same day Mrs. Richée got leave to go into the country by way of the general hospital, but was stopped by the rebels at the end of St. Rocks. A sortie was made to bring in the Record of the Province, which was lodged in a vault under the Intendant's palace, now presenting a mass of ruins and rubbish, in consequence of the late conflagration.

17th. A Mademoiselle Baboche (since pensioned by our Government), who had been employed to bring in intelligence, and was detected by the Yankees, and confined, made her escape, and came in to-day. She confirms the account of General Wooster and his three companions having arrived from Montreal, accompanied by Mr. Walker, and who it seems also takes a command; and further says, that since the affair of the 31st ult. above 200 of them had deserted; and in going off the Canadians endeavored to stop them, whereupon a scuffle ensued, and it was reported that several of them were killed. There you may see how the Faithfuls serve us; it is thus we are requited for our abundant lenity showed them upon all occasions.

18th. This being the Queen's birthday, a royal salute was fired, in honor of Her Majesty.

19th. Every thing quiet; the mortar battery opened

against the enemy's guard-house at the west end of St. Rocks, and continued playing till two o'clock; it escaped destruction, but great damage was done by the bombs to the neighboring houses. A sortie was made today into St. Rocks for fire-wood (of which we began to be in great want), and upwards of 35 cords of that material were brought in, and divided among the British and French Militia. In the evening three of the late prisoners who had entered into Colonel McLean's corps made their escape behind the barracks, and carried with them their arms and ammunition. About 11 o'clock the rebels set fire to some of the remaining houses in St. Rocks, to prevent us, as we supposed, from getting in hay and wood, which was lodged in some of them.

20th & 21st. These two days nothing particular only that on the night of the 21st, the enemy fired a sloop that lay behind the ruins of the Intendant's palace, and more houses in S. Rocks; otherwise all quiet in the garrison.

22nd. This day a long 26-pounder was brought down to the mortar battery, (and mounted en barbette), which is likely to annoy the enemy greatly at their guard-house: nothing else now occurring, except that fatigue parties are out clearing away the snow from the lines, which are more open to assault in consequence of the drifting of the late heavy storms.

23rd. This day, a party having made a sortie under cover of a strong guard, and a brass field-piece 3-pounder, a great deal of wood was got in. In the morning about eleven o'clock, we witnessed the burning of many houses in St. Rocks by the rebels, which appalling conflagration continued all night, and had a very grand effect amid the thick darkness which surrounded all other objects. Busy in making additions to the battery at the Saut du Matelot.

24th. In the evening a party went out under the command of the brave Captain Lawes, and lodged in Mr. Drummond's distillery all night, with intent to surprise the enemy's marauders in case they should attempt burning the shipping, as it was expected; but

none of them appeared:—N. B. This extra guard it is said is to be continued until further orders. The recreant enemy burnt more houses in St. Rocks, as it would appear for the purpose of exciting our feelings of retaliation hereafter, as they are debarred from injuring us in a more material manner, at present, and not inclined to attempt a second coup de main, under cover of the smoke, as it is understood by intelligent officers that the destruction of the suburbs was the certain precursor of their late desperate effort.

25th. This day the guards are to be relieved at nine o'clock, on account of a sortie being made by a party under the command of Major McKenzie (to bring in wood), covered by a field-piece 3-pounder. While the party was out, a great many shot and shells were fired at the guard-house, from the Devil's battery, as the enemy called that on which out two heavy guns are mounted. The governor went out and desired the party to advance, to divert their attention; to which they conformed with the utmost alacrity. Our people being now within musket-shot, the enemy's out-sentinel having taken the alarm, was immediately sent off for succour, as we suppose, for in less than half an hour their guard was reinforced by a detachment from Minues, consisting of 50 men; but neither they nor the guard chose to attack us, although our party, which consisted of only 30 men was posted within reach of their musketry. A little before the retreat was beat, one of the enemy separated himself before the rest, and seemed to be coming over to us on snow-shoes; but when he got well within musket-shot, whether through fear of our firing on him, or that he had advanced through the spirit of enterprise, he returned to his party.

From the 26th to the beginning of February there are facts of daily occurrence which too plainly bespeak the direful effects of the fatal contest that has divided the British empire against itself. Our foes must now be convinced that they have nothing to trust to beyond implicit submission or effectual resistance; and the crisis is of so delicate and important a nature that we cannot at present hazard a conjecture as to the choice

they will hereafter make. Large reinforcements are expected from England, and Halifax, as soon as the river is freed from ice; and the Laurentian stream, stained with Montcalm's, Wolfe's, and Montgomery's blood, will probably smoke for another campaign with the thunder of opposing hosts, and re-echo the resonant groans of warriors whose blood may for a third time saturate the green sward of Canadian plains; although it is to be hoped that no more will be shed in the course of further rebellion, and that our troops and those of the provincials will cease to slaughter each other for the diversion of our natural enemies in Europe.

Feb. 8th. This day the enemy were observed in great numbers about their out-posts, and burnt many houses in the suburbs. We attribute the cessation of their firing to their cleaning their muskets. They have two field-pieces placed by Minues on the highway, ready to act against any of our sallying parties. This evening, a detachment, under the command of Captain Nairn, lodged in St. John's suburbs, with a view to detecting some one or other of these vagabonds as they come to burn the houses, but none came.

9th. Everything quiet. A severe snow.

10th. Nothing particular. The snow storm still continues.

11th. This day about noon, a flag of truce was seen approaching. Colonel McLean demanded their business over the walls, and was answered, that they had letters from Captain Godwin of our artillery, addressed to the Governor, along with several others, of various import; however, they were dismissed without our receiving any of their credentials. It has been supposed that the purport of the embassy was to exchange a Captain Godwin for a Captain Lamb of their artillery, a prisoner and wounded. He conducted a field-piece mounted on a sledge, against the first barrier, on the morning of the 31st December, but was forced to abandon it on account of the snow, and was afterwards shot in the eye, and made prisoner.

12th. All the garrison off duty employed in clearing away the snow from the ramparts. |

13th & 14th. Still busy in clearing away the snow. A great many people seen with sledges at Minues, and at the guard-house at St. Rocks. Kept up a constant fire on the former for some time; and so well directed was it that their duration there was but short. Five more deserters went off this morning early, three of them were prisoners that enlisted in Colonel McLean's corps; the others were, one of his own men, and a sailor, who, as we suppose, were corrupted by the rest. They knocked down the militia sentinel, and threw his gun over the walls, whilst he was upon duty behind the barracks. More houses fired in St. Rocks suburbs. Another flag of truce seen advancing, but was not allowed to approach.—N. B. The sailor and emigrants did not go over the wall behind the barrack, but over the pickets behind the Hotel Dieu, &c. This convent was founded by a French duchess of the first eminence (D'Aiguillon), at an early period, for nuns who should exclusively attend to the sick. During the siege in 1760 they carried on a clandestine communication with the French troops outside the walls, which so exasperated General Murray, that he swore he would turn them all out, and convert their convent into a barrack.

15th. Nothing particular all day. Several of the rebels seen at the old battery. This evening four more deserters went off, from behind the barracks, being also part of those who had enlisted with Colonel McLean's corps, as it would appear, simply from a treacherous motive. An order issued out, that no persons are to come into the street, during the darkness of the evening, without a light. In the evening was heard a smart firing of small arms from St. John's suburbs by the enemy's marksmen; and more houses were fired at the same time. The shipping at St. Rocks was also attempted to be set on fire by the enemy; but this scheme was prevented by our endeavors, and the vessels were saved.

16th. This morning all the prisoners that had entered into Colonel McLean's corps (in consequence of the frequent desertion among them) were again sent to gaol, a circumstance which has seemingly given great satisfaction to all the other members of the garrison,

as this plan is the only effectual one that can be devised to frustrate their traitorous designs. Many shots fired at Minues from the Devil's battery, great numbers of the enemy being seen in that quarter. This evening a volunteer picket was again established, and the guards at Cape Diamond and Port Louis were reinforced, in consequence of the height of snow in these places, as the enemy might have walked in at the embrasures, had they felt inclined to make another assault.

17th. Nothing particular:—the volunteer picket still continued, until we have clear moonlight all night. Several houses fired in the evening in St. John's suburbs, and some shot fired from the enemy.

18th. Every thing quiet—the guards on the ramparts continued to be reinforced. More houses set on fire in the suburbs, by the rebellious marauders.

19th. No occurrences worth relating. The enemy continued to amuse themselves by burning more houses in St. John's suburbs during the night; a barbarous measure, which can be of no service to them beyond the pleasure of doing us as much damage as lies in their power.

20th. Nothing particular; only that an officer and twenty privates of the British Militia were ordered to be ready at day-break to make a sortie. Strong pickets held, and all the guards reinforced, in expectation of an attack; but the night passed in tranquility. The enemy still continued, without intermission, to fire the houses in St. John's suburbs.

21st. At day-break the snow-shoe party went out at St. John's Gate, to cover the bringing in of wood from the few remaining houses. About eight o'clock the enemy fired a few cannon-shot from behind the right of the old battery. Our guns played away briskly on their guard-house in that neighborhood, which annoyed them greatly. In the evening, a party under the command of Colonel Caldwell, Captain Nairn, and several subaltern officers, took possession of the English burying place in the suburbs, fortifying a house that stood there, and which was under cover of a stone



wall, which inclosed that spot, to secure the remainder of the houses for the use of the garrison, and lay hold of some of the vagabonds who usually pay that place a visit almost every night: a few made their appearance at different times, but as soon as they discovered our out-sentinels near the cemetery (or rather, perceived the approach of the lieutenant, who was then on his rounds, and also commanded these desperadoes, the British Militia), they made off without firing a shot.

22nd. This morning the out-party was relieved and the garrison busied in getting in wood. In consequence of the general tranquility without the walls, all the out-parties were ordered in at seven o'clock. Every thing passed in quiet.

23rd. A covering party stationed out all day which continued till night, so that a great deal of wood was brought in by our foragers. Very few of the enemy seen today. In the afternoon a few shots were fired at Minues and the guard-house at the end of St. Rocks. This evening a deserter came in from the enemy, who gave a very contradictory account of himself; inso-much, that after a short examination, he was sent to gaol as a spy; it is much suspected that he has been sent in by our foes, to learn the cause of there being no more desertion, and to form some plan of aggression with the prisoners that entered Colonel McLean's corps, whom they might still imagine at liberty, and just as capable of carrying on their perfidious designs as before.

24th. Every thing quiet. By the deserter that came in last night, we learn that both the Generals, Lee and Schuyler, had been ordered to reinforce the rebels without; but were both countermanded, (particularly as there is a report of Colonel Johnson having entered the province with a large party of Indians,) owing to the critical situation of affairs throughout the colonies for by a newspaper account, Governor Dunmore was said to be destroying their sea-ports in Virginia, while other royalists to the southward had given the liberty boys a severe drubbing: he likewise

acquaints us, that Governor Tryon was intrenched on Long Island, a most proper spot for landing our soldiers, and reducing the colonists to obedience; and had been reinforced by large bodies of foreign troops: that without, the enemy were employed in making scaling ladders; and that he left Montreal lately, where things were in confusion, owing to the militia officers in that quarter refusing to deliver up their commissions. In town all well, and in high spirits. He likewise says that Colonel Clinton had arrived with about 100 men, and is to take the command.

25th. This morning between the hours of eight and nine o'clock, the enemy fired six shots from their new battery, which they have taken great care not to expose to view; so that their balls are merely thrown at random into the town, and hitherto have done no damage. The volunteer picket still kept up on duty at Mr. Collin's house for the convenience of being near the ramparts in case of an attack. By the newspaper which the deserter brought in, we find a great account of the events of the 31st December, which, when it reaches Old England, will cause much uneasiness to our friends, as they will naturally imagine from the numbers taken and killed of the enemy, that many of their own friends within the walls must have fallen a sacrifice to their heroic exertions in repelling the invaders.

26th. The regular picket which has hitherto met at the Hotel Dieu was this day ordered to meet at Mr. Drummond's at retreat beating, for the purpose of being near the ramparts. The Cape Diamond guard continues to be regularly reinforced every night, and sentinels are placed without the walls; so that there is no relaxation in our vigilance. Several of the enemy were seen in scattered parties lurking about the heights, for the purpose, we suppose, of reconnoitring. This evening a person went out over the ice on snow-shoes to the island of Orleans, for intelligence. with an intent to return in a few days.

27th. All day a very great thaw, and rain in the evening. Mounted more flanking guns at Cape Dia-

mond, being dubious of an attack in that quarter. Some of the colony seen about their old battery, seemingly employed in clearing away the snow:—N.B. Omitted to mention in its proper place that there has been a guard of twelve men stationed at Lauchlan Smith's house for these ten days past, without Palace Gate, which is still continued, to prevent the enemy from firing the shipping, or surprising that part of the town; and the guard that was kept in the distillery is now taken off.

28th. This morning an inhabitant of Chambly, (15 miles from Montreal), out fifteen days, and lately arrived from the island of Orleans, came in at the Saut du Matelot, and brings us the following agreeable accounts, which he learnt from undoubted authority in that neighborhood; viz., That advice had arrived from Montreal of a general officer having landed at New York with a reinforcement of 10,000 men; (it was rather doubted that so large a body had arrived at such an unseasonable time of the year;) and that large reinforcements had sailed from Halifax and Louisbourg to give early succours to this place; also that the enemy had sent about 150 sledges over the lakes to bring their expected reinforcements; but had returned with only about 100 men, whom they picked up as recruits at different places, their intended succours being recalled, having enough to do in their own colonies, with the different subdivisions of the king's troops; and he further states that the whole amount of their force, both here and above, did not exceed 2,000 men. He likewise says, that the enemy have been talking of going away, but that the country people won't let them; saying, "that as you have brought us into a scrape of this description, you must bring us out of it again, and take Quebec," as it appears they are weak enough to imagine that the invaders would be able to keep it eventually in possession. The enemy have also amused the inhabitants with telling them that General Carleton had offered to give up the garrison, but that they did not choose to take possession until their reinforcements arrive, as they would then be better able to retain it. He also mentioned many other satisfac-

tory circumstances, all of which put the garrison in high spirits:—clear weather, but frosty.

29th. Every thing quiet without:—strong pickets still held, in expectation of an attack. A signal fired from the grand battery.

### MARCH 1ST.

Nothing particular all day:—about five in the afternoon, several cannon-shot were fired at a large house on the Beauport side of the river, where the rebels have been seen lurking for these several days past. About eight o'clock this evening a small house at the back of Mr. Drummond's distillery took fire, supposed by the wad from the guns that were fired in the afternoon, they being right over the house, and a number of the town's people went out to extinguish it. Several musket-shots fired at our out-sentinels on duty at Palace Gate, between three and four o'clock in the morning, from a few of the enemy who had lurked about the Intendant's Palace:—otherwise all quiet.

2nd. All well during the day:—in the evening Colonel McLean had like to have been killed while placing the sentinels without the walls, he going out without first acquainting the guard of St. Louis' Gate, who were not aware of the circumstance, and would have taken him for one of the besiegers skulking about in the dusk.

3d. All well during the day:—in the evening three soldiers of Colonel McLean's corps deserted at the old place behind the barracks. Several musket-shot fired from the Beauport side, by our foes, supposed at the people that are expected from the island of Orleans. Clear weather and moonlight.

4th. Nothing particular all day; excepting that two grates (for holding the fire-balls) were placed at Cape Diamond, and a few shots fired from the Devil's Battery into Minues, and also some rockets thrown up at night.

5th. This day perceived that the enemy had dis-

played two flags, a red one at Mr. Lynd's farm, and a black one in the neighborhood of the guard-house, near their old battery. Various are the conjectures concerning them; some imagine them to be signals for prisoners within (who are now very strictly looked after) while others say it is in commemoration of that seditious day at Boston, when Captain Preston is said to have ordered his soldiers to fire upon the populace, during the tumult, and killed several people of the town; and some few think it is to show they will give no quarter when they attack us again. A strong easterly wind, with hail and rain, all night. Mounted more guns on the face of the ramparts. All quiet.

6th. All tranquility. Blowing hard, with hail and snow:—no flag seen to-day.

7th. Fine weather. Fatigue-parties out making a snow ditch without the walls, and mounting more cannon on the face of the ramparts. Many of the enemy seen marching backwards and forwards in the environs of the town. The red flag hoisted again.

8th. Busy in finishing the snow ditch, and mounting more cannon. Some of the enemy were seen passing and repassing from Wolfe's Cove, carrying off square timber. Fired a wall piece at two of them who came rather nigh: one of them fell. This evening about five o'clock, a Canadian from the Beauport side, came in at Palace Gate, and was fired upon by the guard in that neighborhood, but escaped unhurt. He was sent to the governor, but seemed so fatigued and frightened he could get nothing out of him; he was then ordered under the care of Mr. Dunn for that evening, by whom he was conducted to the Lieutenant-Governor's house; but had not remained long there, before he gave them the slip. Great search was made after him; but the poor man was at last found, and soon gave his reasons for leaving the house, having imagined he might have slept where he pleased, and so went to Mr. Marcout's in the lower town: However, Mr. Dunn sent him back for the evening, for fear of any espionage. About eight o'clock the Saut du Matelot guard was alarmed by the firing of small arms on the river towards Beauport, seemingly from

people engaged in that quarter, as upwards of 60 shots were counted. In consequence a number of both British and French militia repaired to the support of that guard. The firing then ceased, though not without a confused cry. Not long after two men were seen approaching upon the ice, who, upon being challenged, answered "Friends," and then desired admittance. We imagined that we should then be able to know the meaning of the firing, but on this point they remained silent; and being immediately conducted to the governor, said they had brought good news, so that every one was anxious for the approach of morning, to know the particulars.

9th. The two persons that came in last night were both Canadians of some consequence above: one of them had been taken prisoner at St. John's, and carried up to the Congress, from whom, by repeated solicitations, he had received permission to return to Canada, they having imagined he was in their interest; the other was an inhabitant of the neighborhood of Montreal, who had prudently remained silent with regard to his public sentiments in the present critical situation of affairs, and consequently was not suspected to be a loyalist: the former of these brought a letter from Governor Tryon of Long Island, (where the rebels have been since intrenched and advantageously posted as well as New York, with upwards of 100 pieces of cannon for the defence of the town, and to obstruct our fleet in its passage up North River,) fraught with agreeable intelligence; also many scraps of newspapers, which inform us of the dismal situation of our enemy to the southward; while the other brought a letter from the superior of the clergy at Montreal, to the Governor also, which, I understand, paints things in that quarter in a miserable situation, and gives information that the enemy intend making an attack in the course of a week, and were preparing scaling ladders for that purpose. All the garrison are in high spirits, and wait with impatience to put a finishing stroke to our long contest. In a few days a gazette is to be published of all the news. This afternoon the man mentioned in the first part of my day's work is

sent out, he being seemingly a fool; at least it was thought more prudent to dismiss him in that manner than keep him in town, lest he should turn out to be something worse.

10th. All well during the day. At ten o'clock at night an alarm was given at Cape Diamond, of a number of people seen approaching the walls, which was announced to the inhabitants by the ringing of bells, and beating of drums. Every one repaired to his post; but after waiting some time under arms, they were all dismissed. The Governor appears extremely satisfied at seeing us all so alert, for in less than half an hour we had 100 men under arms:—the remainder of the night passed in silence.

11th. This morning a general parade of the British Militia took place, who, without any compliment to that corps, made a very respectable, soldier-like appearance. The General (through Colonel Caldwell) thanked us for our alertness in turning out the preceding evening, saying, that he was extremely sorry we were disappointed, being well convinced, that had the enemy approached, they would have met with a very warm reception. One of the sailors of the *Saut du Matelot* guard deserted; but was taken by our out-sentinels at Palace Gate, and sent in irons to gaol; and another who was privy to the action is likewise in confinement.

12th. This day snowy weather. Nothing material occurred.

13th. Clear weather, but cold. Fatigue-parties out clearing away the snow from the walls. A flag of truce from the enemy came in, and said they had papers for General Carleton. They were probably encouraged by a permission granted for the prisoners' baggage to enter the town. But it was answered, that unless they contained supplicating terms, and exhibited a true sense of the heinousness of their crimes, and a wish to implore the King's mercy, they would not be received: on which the party that addressed Major Le Maitre made a low bow and marched off. This will serve as a damper to their confidence, should

they return again with any more attempts at correspondence. All well during these twenty-four hours.

14th. This morning, about 11 o'clock, an out-sentinel of the enemy was seen on the heights near Cape Diamond, which gave occasion to think that there must be some work going on below, or at least that the enemy were posted in that quarter; upon which an officer of the seamen, with 15 men, went out; on seeing whom the Yankee sentinel, after firing his gun, ran off; so that when our party had gained the face of the hill, the enemy below were alarmed, and a smart firing commenced, which lasted about five minutes, during which time our people fired off all their ammunition; not, however, before the whole party had scampered from Wolfe's Cove, leaving behind two or three killed and wounded. It seems they were a working party of pioneers, having raised sheds on the beach; and the circumstance of many of them having no arms gave us strong reasons to suspect so. A number of the enemy seen going towards Montmorency this morning.

15th. A fatigue-party of twenty privates and an officer, out clearing the snow from the ramparts. In the afternoon a canoe was sent off to discover what was doing in the Aunce de Mer, at Wolfe's Cove, but could only see a few men with some sheds they had raised in going up, to keep off the snow. Having kept well to the other shore, they were hailed from that quarter, and some of the Point Levi habitants desired to know if they might bring in provisions; to which they were answered in the affirmative, when they replied they would come over next day. Dark weather, and snow.

16th. At midnight two men in a canoe came up from below with provisions, (the first since the town had been invested.) They were immediately conducted to the governor, and all that we can learn is, that some parishioners in their neighborhood are much disposed, during the present scarcity, to give us assistance. In daily expectation of another attack: a strong French picket held at Mr. Lymburner's; the British Militia about establishing another for the lower town, which it is reported will be held at Mr. Willcock's house:—ran all these 24 hours.



17th. Nothing particular: a few fascines seen put together by the enemy, on the Point Levi side, supposed with an intent to raise a battery. The habitants who came up in the canoe, report that they have got a few small guns, and a 10-inch howitzer on that side: however, we as yet can see no appearance of the people at work. This being St. Patrick's day, the governor (who is a true Hibernian) has requested the garrison to put off keeping it until the 17th May, when he promises they shall be enabled to do it properly, and with the usual solemnities. Busy in preparing three large batteaux to cruise in the river, one of which is to carry a six-pounder. The ice breaking up very fast.

18th. This day no occurrences worth recording, only that Captain Harrison's and Lester's companies assembled, according to orders, at Willcock's post for the first time. The canoe that came on the 16th. instant sett off with large paquets for the priests below, and as is thought, will produce the desired effect on the inhabitants. The enemy were seen transporting ladders from different quarters to this neighborhood, for which reason we keep a very good look out on their motions. All well.

19th. This day snowy weather; in the afternoon, one batteau and two ships' long boats were launched, the first carrying a six-pounder, and the others swivels, and went up as far as Sillery Point, but could discover nothing particular owing to the day being so far spent. Canoes seen passing from Wolfe's Cove in the afternoon, to the other side, transporting (as it is thought) their small pieces of cannon.—N.B. When the boats were sent off, a corps of reserve was ordered out at Cape Diamond, (belonging to the Royal Emigrants,) to support them in case any thing should happen, &c.

20th. Clear weather, but extremely cold. The last of the King's wood was delivered out to-day to the garrison; however, the Governor, and Lieutenant-Governor have still got about 150 cords to spare for the present. The lower town picket regularly attended. All tranquility these last twenty-four hours.

21st. Busy laying platforms for heavy guns and mortars, to bear on the enemy's works, which are now seen erecting at the Point Levi side. Nothing else material.

22nd. \* \* \* \* \*

25th. This day the advanced guard of a detachment of Canadians, which had been raised by that partisan of tried fidelity, Monsieur Beaujeau, to relieve his friends in the town, was met, as we are informed, by a superior body of the rebels, and completely defeated: the rest, wearied with repeated misfortunes, and finding themselves hardly capable of coping with their foes, who are superior to them in the science of war, are said to have dispersed, and returned home. We will at any rate give them due credit for their good intentions respecting us: but we cannot but place ample confidence in our own British and Canadian Militia, who behave with a steadiness and resolution hardly to be expected from men unused to arms, and seldom met with but in veterans. Lieutenant-Colonel McLean continues indefatigably zealous in the King's service, and Captain Hamilton (acting as Colonel), of His Majesty's ship Lizard, who commands the battalion of seamen, has by his example encouraged both officers and men to act with that alacrity and intrepidity, which is chiefly to be met with as truly characteristic in the hearts of Britons. The judges and other officers of Government, many of whom are considerable sufferers by the present hostile invasion, have all along cheerfully submitted to every privation, in defense of the town, and showed a spirit of perseverance, amidst the most untoward circumstances, that does them the greatest honor.—Considering our being so ill supplied with necessaries, it is hardly to be expected that we should have been at all kept together for so many months, in the midst of such inclement frosts and snows: while we can scarcely refrain from wondering how our enemies without the walls, undisciplined and ill provided as they are, can endure the hardships of so severe a climate, compelled as they must needs be by officers, to whom, by all accounts, they scarcely deign submission. Nor are we supposed to give much credit

to a report, which is supposed by some to be authentic, concerning a memorial and petition said to have been presented to the French King, and signed by thirty of the principal French inhabitants of this province, entreating that potentate to take advantage of the times for the recovery of his ancient province, and promising all his former subjects will crowd with alacrity to his standard.—In our Governor's opinion, the intrepid conduct of the citizens will prove a lasting monument to their honor; and it is to be hoped that their example will inspire the unhappy sufferers in the neighboring states, with similar power of mind, in order to rescue themselves from impending miseries.

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31st. We receive information this day of a desperate plot formed by the prisoners (the Yankee part of them, in particular, the others who had enlisted into Colonel McLean's corps being in a different prison) to escape, and let in General Arnold. It seems at the bottom of the gaol where they were, there is a well from which they procure their water; so that having frequent occasion to go to that place, they concerted a scheme among themselves for effecting their escape; which plan must have been encouraged by some of our *good* friends in town, as we find they were furnished with various instruments for undermining the wall, besides pistols, cutlasses, and other deadly weapons; this fallacious purpose they had nearly effected, but for the vigilance of one of the sentinels. So soon as this circumstance was clearly known, they were all examined; and how much then must our surprise be heightened, when it was found out that one of them had actually decamped. This discovery immediately led to others; for though threats and rewards were held out to the whole of them, only one turned evidence against the rest, and gave the following account of their preconcerted scheme. Had it succeeded, being planned with considerable ability, and supposing that these prisoners had appointed officers of tried courage among themselves, proper to conduct them, when they got out, their first attack was to have been directed

against St. John's Gate, where they meant to cut and destroy every one they met with: this done, having fixed a signal to give notice to their companions who had already escaped, they intended forthwith to turn the guns in that quarter on the town, and set fire to three different houses; the rebels without were then expected to advance with all speed to that gate, while others supported them, by marching towards Palace Gate, where they did not doubt of their comrades within being able to admit them, as there was a detached party on their getting out actually appointed to massacre that guard also: this done, and their friends admitted, they were neither to spare young nor old, but to smite all their foes without mercy, till they had made themselves masters of the town, resolving to a man to conquer or die in that brutal manner. However, that All-seeing Providence, which so miraculously saved us on the 31st December, again distinguished itself on this day. All those who had taken any command among these insurgents (say to the number of twelve) are in irons, closely confined, and the others carefully looked after. The Governor, pleased with this unexpected discovery, and being possessed of the signal expected without by the enemy, immediately resolved to avail himself of the benefit derived from such information, and endeavour to decoy them within range of the ramparts, by ordering out the whole garrison under arms, at two o'clock in the morning, and every man to his alarm-post; which being accordingly done, two small brass field-pieces were brought down to St. John's Gate, and three different fires were kindled in various directions, as if so many houses were burning; when immediately the two guns fired away, and continued repeated discharges of blank cartridge for about ten minutes. The garrison being now supposed to be alarmed, all the church bells were set ringing, and the drums beating; at the same time, small arms were fired in various directions, while a party kept hallooing, Liberty, Liberty for ever.—This scheme, although extremely well-conducted, had not however, unfortunately, the desired effect; for not a single man of the enemy appeared in the face of our works. Had our plan succeeded, and they boldly ad-

vanced in consequence of these signals, instead of being so extremely wary and over-cautious, they would have met with such a reception as would have completely put an end to the blockade, as well as to our tedious fatigues. Another deserter came in to-night, who gives much the same account with the former, and says we shall soon have many more come in.

APRIL 1ST.

To-day nothing new occurred, excepting that a few shot and shells were fired at the enemy's battery from the Upper Town. The rebels have now opened four embrasures, but as yet have fired no cannon. This evening a deserter came in; two others attempted to follow him, but our sentinels prevented them from entering the town, by firing upon them. He informs us that General Wooster, who has hitherto remained at Montreal, is just arrived at the camp with a small party of about 14 men; and further says, that his Canadian allies, who are greatly dispirited, have almost all abandoned the rebels in disgust, and Colonel Hazen's battalion of renegade Canadians, which he was raising in the neighborhood of Chambly, was now reduced by desertion to 60 men; also confirms, to the full extent, what the others have said respecting the insurgent forces being in a sickly condition, and upon the whole very much dissatisfied with their campaigning adventures.

2d. Soft weather, and extremely hot in the morning. A few shells and shot sent from the grand battery. In the afternoon the Lizard's cutter went up the river, and had like to have been taken, off Sillery, by two armed batteaux; was fired at from them, as well as from two pieces of cannon which the enemy had planted on the point, but got back safe to the harbor. This night the extra pickets were discontinued, and all the garrison off duty allowed to sleep in their clothes, till further orders, it being now moonlight.

3d. This morning the enemy opened their battery at Point Levi, nearly on the same spot as those erected during the former siege, with three 12-pounders, and

one eight-inch howitzer. They continued to play away till about twelve o'clock; but their firing did not the least damage. They began again about one o'clock, and finished an hour after, entirely owing to a heavy shower of rain coming on, which lasted all the evening. On our part, as soon as they opened their battery, nine large pieces opened against them, none less than 24-pounders, and two 13-inch mortars, and continued to play upon them with shot and shells as long as they remained in their battery, during which time a number of our shot took effect, and damaged them greatly. At noon we heard the report of six heavy cannon; but cannot conceive what quarter it proceeds from. The evening being very obscure, the extra pickets are again ordered to meet, and lie on their arms all night:—but every thing remains quiet.

4th. This morning the enemy began to fire from their battery, which now mounts four guns besides the howitzer, with shot and shells, which did no damage whatever. Returned the fire, but in a far superior style to theirs. Their battery now appears like a honeycomb, which in my opinion is a target that will not stand much more firing at. Snowy weather, which stops all cannonading for the day. In the night not a hand stirring without the walls, as far as we could see.

5th. All the garrison off duty employed in clearing away the snow from the ramparts. The enemy renewed their fire, which they continued without any effect all the afternoon. In return our artillery-officers fired from the batteries upon them with well-directed cannon. This evening a large schooner that lay in the Aunee de Mer, with several batteaux, drifted down the river with the ice; and about ten o'clock an inhabitant of repute in the neighborhood of Montreal, came in at the Saut du Matelot. He was immediately conducted to the Governor, who delayed hearing his information till morning: so that all we could learn is, that things without are in a most dismal plight. Soon after, a deserter came in at Cape Diamond, who was detained till morning at the main guard for examination, while the other slept at Mr. Melvin's, being related to him.

6th. By the joint information of those who came in-

to the garrison last night, we learn that the enemy are about erecting two other batteries; one in the neighborhood of the old one on the heights, and the other at the ferry-house on the river St. Charles, under cover of the old redoubt on its north side. The number of sick at present is said to form nearly a third of the whole army of the besiegers, among whom there are constant desertions; and it is said they were not able to bring their troops to hazard another attack. Also that a few of the inhabitants down the river, to the number of 40, had risen (being headed by their priests), with a firm intention of surprising the enemy's guard at Point Levi, and bringing them prisoners to town; but they were unfortunately betrayed. However, they took post in a large house, where, after bravely defending themselves some time, they were obliged to surrender, having about five of their number killed, and several others wounded; among the latter the priest who commanded them mortally. On the enemy's part they had seven killed, besides wounded. Since this skirmish General Wooster has ordered all the priests and inhabitants below of consequence to be sent up to camp, that he may detain them as hostages for the frustration of any more such attempts.

7th. Blowing weather, with rain, &c. Nothing particular occurring.

8th. Fatigue-parties out, making additional batteries to play on the enemy. Carpenters employed erecting two block-houses without the walls. This evening a random shot from the enemy's battery, killed Mr. Melvin's son, a child of about 8 years of age, almost in his mother's arms—the only accident of the kind that has happened since the 31st of December.

9th. This morning a few shots fired from the enemy's battery as usual, but did no damage. About twelve o'clock a deserter of rather genteel appearance came in at Cape Diamond, from whom we learn that the whole army without is in a miserable situation; that there were not more than 1800 of them, altogether; and only 1000 of these fit to do duty. Confirms the accounts of the last deserter, and says notwithstanding that they

are about raising two other batteries, which will chiefly mount 12-pounders and howitzers, they having only one 24-pounder brass field-piece in their train of artillery; and that they still meditate another attack on or before the 15th instant. Also, that a plan was actually formed for destroying the shipping, which was to be undertaken by a set of officers, for a reward of £300. He further states, that he had never taken up arms among them, but followed the army as sutler, having formerly belonged to Sir John Johnstone's corps; and adds, that Arnold had that morning set off for Montreal, to take the command there. In short, he says, in a few words, (though many suspect he has been sent in as a spy,) that if we keep a good look-out we have nothing to fear from the besiegers—a hint which was immediately adopted, for now all the garrison off duty, except those who are for guard next day, are assembled at their different pickets.

10th. At an early hour this morning, a young man, who was taken in the fall of last year with the vessels above, near Montreal, came down from Cap Rouge in a canoe, at the potash: from him we learn little or nothing new, he having remained all the winter above. He says the Gaspée brig is much damaged by lying aground, and must have a thorough repair, before she can be fit for service. The usual employment, cannonading, continues. All quiet these twenty-four hours past.

11th. Blowing, disagreeable weather; not a gun fired to-day; a few of the enemy seen at their new battery on the heights; the snow going away apace.

12th. A few guns fired with hot shot from Point Levi, which were all intended to burn the shipping. Some of their balls took place, but no bad consequences ensued. On our part we gave them in return a very warm reception, by which they were soon silenced. In the evening we were a little alarmed in the lower town, owing to our hearing some firing from above; but we soon learnt it was the explosion of the loaded pistols which were in the fire-balls, thrown in while burning, on the ramparts. At the same time there were several



sky-rockets thrown up, to perplex the people without, who are accustomed to make such signals.—N.B. This scheme we have frequently adopted, for various reasons.

13th. Busy erecting another block-house in the neighborhood of Mount Pleasant. In the afternoon a slight cannonading commenced from Point Levi, which was smartly returned.

14th. Employed laying new platforms, and mounting heavy cannon, to bear on the enemy's works. A few shots fired at all their batteries. In expectation of another attack, all the garrison are under arms. Dark gloomy weather.

15th. A number of shots exchanged to-day. Some of the enemy's missiles with red-hot balls, intended to fire the shipping in the Cul de Sac; but their infuriate scheme of destruction had not the least effect. Every thing in a state of tranquility during the night.

16th. Nothing particular all day, only that 8 pieces of cannon were placed on Mr. Grant's wharf and hang-guard. A few shots fired at Point Levi, and returned from the enemy's battery.

17th. At mid-day two deserters came in at the Saut du Matelot with their arms. They confirm in some measure the information the last one brought in (Mr. Chauser), that the besiegers, who still meditated an attack, were erecting their new batteries with all expedition, and planning a scheme to destroy the shipping in the Cul de Sac. They likewise say, that the New York troops, consisting of about three hundred, whose period of service has expired, have refused to do duty any longer; and that the night before they themselves came in, 150 of that division of the army had actually revolted with an intention to join us, previously to which scheme they intended to burn their magazine; but being discovered, they were all made prisoners, and disarmed: notwithstanding which they still huzzaed for the king. All this intelligence did not in the least slacken our zeal in the performance of our duty. Fire-balls and rockets as usual.

18th. This day nothing worth recording; only a few shots exchanged as before.

19th. Fatigue parties out, raising a battery to oppose the enemy at the ferry. Every thing quiet these twenty-four hours.

20th. Early this morning two of our people, who were taken with the fleet, near Montreal, in the fall, made their escape in a canoe from Pointe aux Trembles, 7 leagues from town, (so called from the *Tremble* or aspen-poplar growing on the spot,) and came in at Pres de Ville, from whom we learn, that Hector McNeil has taken command of all the vessels, and that the Yankees were preparing the Gaspée for a fire-ship, to burn the shipping, and had offered 2000 livres to any incendiaries that would undertake it; but not having the money to pay down, no one would engage to perform that notorious service, although several of the French Acadians (i. e. those of Nova Scotia, formerly called Acadie) had offered to do it on these terms; also that many of the people who had left the town were actually in the service of the rebels, particularly Messrs. Wells, Swift and Freeman.—General Carleton, it may be observed, had permitted every one who wished to depart from the garrison, to leave it, as he was determined not to have any correspondence kept up with the rebels. They likewise inform us that a report prevails in the enemy's camp, that Colonel Caldwell, (a most active and diligent officer, and faithful subject of His Majesty, who commanded the Militia all the winter,) with the troops under his command, at different posts, was coming down the country, notwithstanding his being a considerable sufferer by the invasion, to our assistance; and that General Arnold, who escaped from us on the 31st of December, had gone up to Montreal to oppose them; and also, that General Lee, with about 2000 men, who was endeavoring to pass the lakes, had lost all his cannon, and afterwards hearing that the Canadians would not join him, but remain strictly neuter, returned without performing any service. Our informant further says, that Walker and Price, who had gone up to the Congress to give evidence against General Prescott, (who was taken with the fleet

last fall, and it is said, treated with such rigor, that from his age and infirmities fatal consequences might be apprehended,) were put under arrest at Philadelphia, for misleading its members by the solemn assurance they had given of the inhabitants of this province in general being ready to join any army that might be sent into this country, our enemies having found the contrary to their woful experience; and lastly, he states, that Mr. Chauser, who came in lately, was a "formidable" spy, (sent no doubt to overhear any secret whispers among the besieged, and learn our future purposes of aggression,) having a few days before received a company as a reward for undertaking that service. All these matters put together have not only raised our spirits (well knowing that we shall soon have reinforcements,) but have redoubled our vigilance in securing the garrison from assault during these dark nights, for in the day time we fear nothing. Busy in mounting more cannon. All quiet during the night.

21st. The Point Levi battery still continues firing shot and shells, and has been replied to during the whole of the day, by the gunners in the lower town, who have directed the eight pieces of cannon mounted on Mr. Grant's premises on the 16th, with great effect against the rebels on the opposite bank. The night passed in silence.

22nd. This day the rebels opened another battery upon the town from the opposite bank of the river St. Charles, upon which they have mounted two heavy guns and a howitzer. Their object in erecting this work, at which they have been engaged for several days past, is evidently to burn the town and destroy the shipping, as they have fired red-hot balls from that quarter likewise, but they have done us little injury beyond intercepting our supplies and burning the miserable remains of the suburbs, which still afforded a scanty allowance of fuel.

We understand that a large part of their army has left St. John's, probably to reinforce their comrades here. After firing several shots from the guns bearing

on the St. Charles, during the day, and mounting more cannon, the garrison were ordered under arms lest another assault should be attempted. Extremely dark at night.

23d. The enemy attempted to annoy us by throwing in a few shells from a battery lately erected on the heights opposite Port St. Louis; but they were soon silenced by a superior fire from our artillery, which has exceedingly damaged this, as well as every other they have erected.

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MAY 3RD.

About ten at night a fire-ship attempted to run into the Cul de Sac, where the greatest part of our vessels is a present laid up in ordinary for the winter. She dropped down at ebb-tide, with the expectation of doing a great deal of injury; but the scheme proved abortive, for our batteries opened upon her when she came to leeward of the shipping; and the incendiaries on board having deserted her through fear of the flying shot from the town, she was run aground and burnt to the water's edge, without at all answering the purpose intended. It is generally supposed that the insurgents would have attempted a general assault during the confusion naturally ensuing from the burning of the ships and the lower town contiguous.

On the 6th of May the Surprise frigate, Isis, and sloop Martin, came into the Basin. Captain Douglas of the Isis, which sailed from Portland on the 11th of March, with succours on board for this town, made the island of St. Peter on the 11th of April, and from thence with the greatest difficulty and exertion made his way through large fields of ice, which for fifty or sixty leagues were of such thickness and consistency, that the ship could only be forced onwards by carrying a heavy press of sail. After clearing the Gulf he made the inhospitable island Anticosti, (an ill-wooded and barren spot, 40 leagues in extent, from N. E. to S. W. without a good harbour, granted to the Sieur Joliet by

the French, on his return from the discovery of the Mississippi) and entering the river, was joined near Isle aux Coudres by the two other vessels which sailed from Plymouth on the 20th of March. As soon as the detachment of the 29th regiment on board with a party of marines had landed; they were joined by the garrison; and the Commander-in-chief, wisely availing himself of the impression which the arrival of the ships of war had made on the insurgents, marched out to engage them, with a strong party, from the Gates of St. Louis and St. John. The enemy were found busied in making preparations for a rapid retreat, and after exchanging a few shots, fled in the utmost confusion. The alarm being given, the plains, as well as the adjacent wood, were soon completely cleared of the marauders. Several stragglers were made prisoners, and the dastardly villains, after in vain attempting to rally and charge our troops, scampered off, having abandoned fifteen pieces of cannon, with all their military stores, petards, scaling ladders, and baggage. The parties on each side of the river were prevented from joining in their flight towards Montreal by two armed vessels, sent by Captain Douglas as far as the Rapids, in the hope of annoying them in their retreat, which was so precipitate, that most of their cannon were left ready loaded, and their ammunition, provisions, intrenching tools, and even muskets, in many cases abandoned. An armed schooner, carrying ten guns, 3 and 6-pounders, was taken by the Surprise and Martin, her crew escaping to the woods; and the Gaspée schooner, which had been sunk by the rebels, was weighed up, and recovered without much damage.

Further reinforcements arrived from Halifax on the 8th of May, consisting of 47th regiment, in three transports, convoyed by His Majesty's ship Niger, which were soon followed by other from England. Captain Forster, with a detachment consisting of two companies of the 8th regiment, some Canadians, and a party of 500 Indians, who had pursued the rebels, came up with them at the Cedars, (the 3d Rapid or fall, Coteau du Lac being the 4th,) a spot beyond Lac St. Louis, where there are cascades at the upper end

of Isle Perrot, separating that Lake from the Lac des deux Montagnes. Two pieces of cannon and 390 prisoners were surrendered in this post at discretion: and about the same time a party of 120 insurgents, passing from the island of Montreal to Kinchin, were defeated by Messrs. Lorimer and Montigny. General Carleton, on receiving his reinforcements, pushed forward with all expedition, after ordering the troops to rendezvous at Three Rivers (25 leagues from Quebec, formerly a French military post for trade.) On the 8th of June the rebels attempted a bold stroke against the troops at Three Rivers, having crossed to the number of nearly 2,000 men, in 50 boats, from Sorel, and landed at a place called the Point du Lai, before day-break, out of the range of the armed vessels at anchor above the town. They were, however, speedily repulsed in an attack on the 62d regiment, and made a quick retreat up the river through the woods, finding that General Nesbit had formed in their rear with a large body of troops from the transports, and that General Fraser was too strongly posted to be driven from the town by their endeavors alone. Those two officers then pursued and attempted to seize their boats, and cut off the retreat of the insurgents from the swamps in which they had taken refuge, but they had fled with such precipitation, that only two boats and about 200 prisoners were taken, through the exertions of the sloop Martin and the armed vessels which sailed up the River du Loup. Among those who surrendered were Major-General Thompson, and Irwin, the second in command. The rebels continued their flight, pursued by the troops to Longeuil, (four leagues from Chambly,) and from thence by La Prairie to St. John's. On the night of the 18th, the head of General Burgoyne's column took possession of the redoubts of St. John, when they found all the buildings in flames, and all the craft and large boats that could not be dragged up the Chambly Rapids burnt by their retreating foes. Twenty-two pieces of cannon are also said to have been abandoned and hid in the woods. On the 11th and 13th of October, General Carleton put the finishing stroke to the expulsion of the invaders, by defeating

their fleet on Lake Champlain, in two actions, near Valicour Isle and Crown Point; only three vessels escaping out of fifteen; two of which, with General Waterburg, the second in command, were taken, and ten others burnt and destroyed. Arnold immediately set fire to the buildings of Crown Point, and after blowing up his flag-ship, escaped to Ticonderoga.

The prodigies of labor said to have been effected since the rebels were driven out of Canada, in creating and equipping a fleet of above thirty armed vessels, together with the transporting over land, and dragging up the two Rapids of St. Terese and St. John thirty long boats, above four hundred batteaux, and other flat-bottomed vessels, are almost incredible. The flotilla was also manned by a large body of prime seamen, two hundred of whom engaged from transports to serve on board during the expedition. With all these advantages, it is not to be wondered at that nearly the whole of the rebel fleet met destruction.

