

parents if he did not survive the assault, and as he did not, it was forwarded by General Philip Schuyler. The letter is dated and reads:

'HEADQUARTERS BEFORE QUEBEC, December 30, 1775.

'MY DEAR FATHER,—If you receive this, it will be the last this hand will ever write you. Orders are given for a general storm of Quebec this night, and heaven only knows what may be my fate. \* \* \* Should Providence, in its wisdom, call me from rendering the little assistance I might to my country, I could wish my brother did not continue in the service of her enemies.'

"This letter, copied from the 'Philadelphia Press,' October 30, 1830, will be found in full in the 'Historical Magazine,' second series, vol. viii, July, 1870, p. 53.

"In the two preceding extracts we have a letter from Bainfair (Barnesfair), who participated in the fight on the British side, and a letter from MacPherson, who was killed. The former distinctly gives December 31st as the date of the battle. The latter, writing on the 30th, says orders are given 'to storm Quebec this evening.' That points to the 31st as the day of the battle as plainly as possible.

"Turning to those who kept diaries or journals, I take up that which I find in the 'Publications of the New York Historical Society' for the year 1880. It is entitled, 'Journal of the Most Remarkable Occurrences in Quebec from the 24th of November, 1775, to the 7th of May, 1776. By One of the Garrison.' The author of the journal I do not know, but will quote part of one day and part of another.

'December 30.— \* \* \* In the night a deserter came in from the rebels. He reports that the army under Mr. Montgomery amounts to between two and three thousand men, including Canadians; that they have been newly clothed, and are most plentifully supplied by the country people, who are paid in hard money. \* \* \* The whole army was assembled at headquarters, by the General's order, lately. It was given out that they were to attack the town that night. \* \* \*

'December 31.—About four o'clock this morning Captain Malcolm Fraser, of Colonel Maclean's Regiment, in going his rounds, perceived signals not far from St. John's Gate; and finding the weather such as the enemy wished for, by the last deserter's report, he alarmed the guards and picquets, who stood to their arms. All the sentries between Cape Diamond and Palace Gate saw many and repeated flashes like lightning. On the Heights of Abraham lights like lanterns were placed on poles at regular distances.' \* \* \*

"The above gives December 31st, tells that the deserter gave them information that the city was to be attacked, and the kind of weather Montgomery desired he had.

"I next turn to the 'Journal of Return J. Meigs from September 9, 1775, to January 1, 1776,' as it is given in the 'Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society,' second series, vol. ii, pp. 227-247, and find:

'December 31.—The troops assembled at two o'clock this morning. Those that were to make the attack by way of Cape Diamond assembled at the General's quarters upon the Heights of Abraham, and were headed by General Montgomery.'