

Quebec, and, as all the British posts in Canada were under our control, except the capital, that now became the object of eager enterprise.

On the 31st of December, 1775, Montgomery stormed that stronghold, and fell in the attack. Our troops were unsuccessful in effecting a lodgement; but Arnold, on whom the command devolved, sat down resolutely before the capital in the depth of winter, and with the small remnant of his troops besieged a Ministerial force of nearly double his number.

Reinforcements were sent to our colonial General, who had been immediately promoted for his gallantry, and troops that carried their own provisions during a perilous march through the forests on snow shoes, reached him from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

With this fragmentary, undisciplined, ill-fed, and miserable array, he kept his ground until spring. Meanwhile, Wooster had quietly rested during the long and arduous winter, in the secure and undisputed Montreal. "A state of repose," says Mr. Sparks "which his countrymen were not prepared to expect from a man who had gained the reputation of a bold and active officer in the last war."

However, on the 1st of April, 1776, he left his winter quarters for Quebec, and, as he outranked Arnold, took command immediately on his arrival. Arnold, who was no doubt discontented at not being permitted to continue in authority at a season when he might have struck a daring and effectual blow, forthwith departed for Montreal, and left this weak and injudicious officer to conduct the siege.

Canada was thus, in fact, in the possession of our colonial troops, yet the tenure was rather nominal than real. It was a conflict between *the military* on both sides, whilst *the people* of the province—the subject matter of all available controversy—had as yet manifested no ardent desire to join us.

Such was the state of things early in the memorable year