

before, and at dawn they stood upon the lofty Plains of Abraham.

But their hearts sank when they saw the castle, and the massy walls that enclosed the garrison, they had no artillery, and nearly half their muskets were rendered useless during their march through the wilderness. They learned too, that reinforcements had been added to the garrison, making an attack a hopeless waste of effort.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Colonel McLean, well knew that Arnold's little army was too weak to attempt an assault, and felt sure that the fierce winds of winter and snow would soon force them from their bleak encampment.

Arnold learned that Sir Guy Carleton, who had retired from Montreal, was approaching Quebec. He also inspected his ammunition and stores, and to his surprise found that nearly all the cartridges were spoiled, hardly five rounds to a man being left fit for use. Finding his attempt vain, by frequent hostile displays upon the heights to draw out the garrison, and learning from his friends in the city that Carleton was near at hand, Arnold broke up his camp, and retired to Pointe aux Trembles, about 20 miles above Quebec, to await the approaching troops of Montgomery. Montgomery landed at Pointe aux Trembles, on 1st of December, his troops reduced to a mere handful. He took command of the combined troops, amounting to only about 900 effective men. The next day, in the face of a heavy snow storm, they started for Quebec, and arrived in sight of the city on the 5th.

The American forces were considerably inferior in numbers to those of the garrison, but this was unknown within the city. For more than three weeks unavailing attempts to make an entrance, and as a last resort, it was resolved to make a regular assault upon the city at different points, which resolution was put into execution on December 31st. The failure of the attack, with the death of Montgomery