

able armies of regular well disciplined troops before its walls.* We were, however, all pent up in that miserable bad place, without provisions, a thousand times worse than a position in an open field, whose pitiful walls could not resist two hours cannonade, without being levelled to the ground, and when we would have been forced to surrender at discretion if the English had insisted upon it. The night between the 7th and 8th was passed in negotiating for the Articles of Capitulation. But in the morning all the difficulties were removed, and Gen. Amherst accorded conditions infinitely more favorable than could be expected in the circumstances."

Whatever value the French inhabitants may have placed upon their stone walls, the troops do not appear to have placed much faith in them as a means of defence, and after the capitulation to the English, the new rulers paying but little attention to them, they gradually fell into decay, and when in 1775, Montgomery† and the American troops appeared in front of the town, and demanded its surrender, the citizens, although knowing full well that their ruined walls would prove no defence, determined to enforce, if possible, the observance of military custom, ere they surrendered, and while they had neither ammunition, artillery, troops nor provisions to withstand a siege, they drew up their own articles of capitulation, which were accepted, and on the 13th November, 1775, at 9 o'clock, the Continental troops took possession by the Recollet Gate, only, however, to retain their position for a few brief months, when the old flag again floated from "Citadel Hill." From this time onward, Montreal prospered, and extended its borders in every direction, so much so, that in 1797, the city having o'erleaped its former bounds, and the walls having become a decided nuisance,

* See Plan of Montreal at time of the conquest, Page 57.

† Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, was born in Ireland in 1737. He entered the British Army, and served under Wolfe at Quebec; but subsequently entered the Continental (American) Army, and was placed in command of the force sent to conquer Canada. On the 13th November, 1775, Montreal was captured; but he lost his life in the attack upon Quebec, on December of the same year.