

serene and bright, which foiled our undertaking. For a mark of distinction each soldier was ordered to procure a fir sprig, and fix it in the front of their caps, whereby they might be discriminated. Of this the enemy were advised by some unaccountable *incident*. At this assemblage there were three captains of companies who were averse to storming, though urged by the general. Their men were willing, but they obstinately determined. Their names I have omitted in consequence of their better behaviour. Upon their declining, the general said he would not compel them, that he wanted no persons with him who went with reluctance. Several of the men signifying their earnest desire of going with the rest of their fellows who went through the woods. Upon which I wrote a billit to Colonel Arnold, desiring his permission to head one of the companies which we then thought would tarry behind in consequence [of the absence] of their commander. Upon which I received this upon the opposite side, which I have preserved in "perpetuam rei memoriam" for future posterity :

"DEAR SIR:—I am much obliged to you for your offer, and glad to see you so spirited, but cannot consent you should take up arms, as you will be wanted in the way of your profession. You will please to prepare dressings, &c., and repair to the main guard house at 2 o'clock in the morning with an assistant.

I am in haste, yours,

DOCT. CENTER.
27 Dec. 1775."

B. ARNOLD, Col.

The undertaking was postponed in hopes of a night by it's darkness more favourable. The enemy were daily cleaning out their ditch round the city walls, in order to obstruct our ascending the fortification. From intelligence the enemy undoubtedly expected us every night, especially if thick and cloudy, for which we were now waiting. In this situation we held ourselves in readiness 'till Saturday the 31st, which was stormy, and increased towards evening. The troops from the advanced post were ordered to Head-Quarters in the night. The storm increased most violently, wind northeast, what fell mostly consisted of hail in the night though it snowed the preceeding day. The disposition of the army being made, they were ordered to proceed at four in the morning.

Sunday, 31st. Head-Quarters was at St. Foy's. Here General Montgomery kept Colonel Arnold, with several more of the field officers. The arrangements of the army was as follows, viz., General Montgomery on the right wing, with the majority of the troops from Montreal, &c. Colonel Arnold on the left, with his division of "Famine proof Veterans." Colonel Livingston's Canadian Regiment, to assault the walls at St. John's gate, with combustibles for firing the gate, and thereby to draw the

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