

and proceed down the river; by her I wrote to Lord Colvil to inform him of the intelligence I had received, and gave him an account of the state of affairs, that he might use the greater diligence to join us. The same day ordered out a party of 120 men to work three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon at the advanced redoubt to be continued. As the garrison was so sickly, I was obliged to use them with the utmost tenderness; and the ground was so hard, it was hardly possible to drive in the piquets. That I might not be obliged to watch within as well as without, I this day ordered all the people to depart from the town, giving them three days to take away the effects they could carry. Ordered them to put up what they could not take away in the Recollets, over which I promised to set a guard, to be under the care of that community, together with two substantial inhabitants of the town; also, permitted the religious belonging to the two nunneries to remain in town, as they were extremely useful in taking care of our sick.

*22nd.*—Ordered each regiment to have a piquet in readiness for any emergency. I had also sent out two pieces of cannon, which were drawn with infinite labour and trouble, to St. Foix.

*23rd.*—The ice gave way everywhere in the great river; that in the Cap Rouge also went off; in consequence ordered the 15th regiment, 28th, 47th, 58th, and 2nd battalion, together with the grenadier companies of the whole, to hold themselves in readiness to encamp on the first notice. My design was, if the weather had permitted, to have encamped with this body at St. Foix, to be at hand to sustain any of my advanced posts and prevent the enemy's landing, but it froze so hard every night that I could not venture on this measure yet, considering the sickly state of the men.

*24th.*—Captain Donald McDonald, a brave and experienced officer, who had been on several little parties this winter, having asked to have the command of a company of volunteers,