

friend, as they were walking together before the walls, selecting a point of attack, "my hardy little army is composed of such discordant materials, that individual exertions can accomplish but very little. I hold my men by no legal authority, and if they see fit, they can leave me if I venture to suggest a proposition which must ensue in much bloodshed. But the only alternative left us is to raise the siege, and retreat the best way we can."

"I trust that alternative will never for a moment be entertained by a single man in our camp," said the aid, impetuously.

"They will not think of it, my dear major, I am assured. They are brave and patriotic, and, I believe, also too much attached to my person to desert me. But I did not come before the walls of Quebec to retreat from them; I will either succeed in the enterprise I contemplate, or leave my body before its gates. I will forthwith summon a council of my officers, and consult with them, and afterward address the troops; from them I anticipate less opposition than from their commanding officers."