

This letter is addressed first to Jo<sup>n</sup> Mercier, and what happened is this: The "faithful Indian Encas," either betrayed Arnold by delivering the letter to the Lieut.-Governor at Quebec, or the Indian was intercepted and the letter taken from him. From memory I incline to the first of these theories. Certain it was that the letter got into the possession of the Lieut.-Governor, and on the 28th October, Mr. Mercier was arrested, his papers seized and put on board an armed vessel. Certain citizens of Quebec thereupon held a meeting and called on the Lieut.-Governor to ascertain the cause of the arrest. He intimated that he had sufficient reason therefor. Subsequently he took into his confidence certain British officers of the Militia and communicated to them one or more intercepted letters directed to Mr. Mercier of a nature sufficient to warrant the above action on his part. I presume the Armstrong letter to have been one of these. It was not, however, shewn that anything treasonable had proceeded *from* Mr. Mercier.

I do not pronounce upon the genuineness of the letter. It would be interesting to know, if possible, how it came into Judge Armstrong's possession. I think I have heard it said that it belonged to his father. The word Quebec at this time was very generally spelt with a terminal *k*, which is absent in the letter before us, and in some of the published letters of Arnold's, Quebec is thus spelt. It might be that Arnold, as a precaution, duplicated this and other letters, and the one we are now considering may be one of the duplicates.

Another point strikes me at once. This letter has been sometimes supposed in the United States to be addressed to one John Manir. The name Mercier in the letter is so written that to one unaccustomed to the French language, it could fairly be mistaken for Manir.