

safely at Quebec, which he found environed with danger from an unexpected quarter. As it was impracticable to save the ships stationed at Montreal, General Prescott was obliged to enter into a capitulation with the Provincials, by which the whole of the river naval force, consisting of eleven armed vessels, was surrendered into their hands, the General himself, with several other officers, some gentlemen in the civil department, Canadian Volunteers, and about a hundred and twenty English soldiers, all of whom had taken refuge on board upon the approach of General Montgomery to Montreal, becoming prisoners of war. Montgomery having found plenty of woollen manufactures at Montreal, took the opportunity of new-clothing his troops who had suffered excessively from the severity of the climate, the deepness of the roads, and the want of covering suitable to such circumstances.

Whilst the Provincials were, thus carrying on the war at Montreal and its neighbourhood, an expedition, considerably distinguished by its novelty, spirit, enterprise, by the difficulties that opposed, and the constancy that succeeded in its execution, was undertaken directly against the lower part of the province and the City of Quebec from the New-England side, by a route which had hitherto been untried, and considered as impracticable. This expedition was undertaken by Colonel Arnold, who, about the middle of September, at the head of two regiments, consisting of about eleven hundred men, marched from the camp near Boston. Arnold and his party, after experiencing the most trying difficulties, arrived at Point Levi, opposite to Quebec, on the 9th of November; but it was not till after being joined by Montgomery from Montreal, that any serious operations were undertaken against the fortress. Even when thus united, the force of the Provincials was too insignificant to attempt the reduction of a place so strongly fortified, especially with the assistance only of a few mortars and field-pieces. After the siege had continued through the month of December, Montgomery, conscious that he could accomplish his end no other way than by surprise, resolved to make an attempt on the last day of the year 1775; and under the cover of a violent snow-storm, he proceeded to this arduous undertaking. At five o'clock, Montgomery, at the head of the New-York troops, advanced against the lower town, under Cape Diamond, but from some difficulties which intervened in his approach, the signal for engaging had been given, and the garrison alarmed, before he could reach the place. He however pressed on in a narrow file, with a precipice to the river on one side, and an hanging rock over him; seized and passed the first barrier, and accompanied by a few of his bravest officers and men, marched boldly at the head of the detachment to attack the second. Several cannon were there planted, loaded with grape-shot. From these, as well as from well-directed and well supported fire of musketry, an end was at once put to the hopes of this enterprising officer, and to the fortune of his party in Canada. The General himself, with his Aid de Camp, some other officers, and most of those who were near his person, fell upon the spot.* Colonel Arnold, in the mean time, made a desperate

* MONTGOMERY was a Gentleman of good family in Ireland, and fell in the prime of life. The excellency of his qualities and disposition had procured him an uncommon