

cost † you about £2,000) is not less than £100 sterling, for I had just got every thing in order, and was beginning to put myself snug and comfortable, when those plunderers came to disturb me. However, they have not gained much by their expedition, and I flatter myself Government will take compassion on a poor ruined farmer, who has not been inactive in their service. The burning of my house led me into this digression. The day after this happened, my clerk, (Joshua Wolf) trying to save some more work, was taken prisoner by some of the enemy's flying parties, and a few days after, General Montgomery (brother to him, you might remember, at Quebec) and lately a Captain in the 17th Regiment, and your old acquaintance and friend Colonel Donald Campbell, quarter master-general, arrived at Holland's house (now the rebel head-quarters.) We were not idle, in the mean time, in town ; we got the merlons and embrasures repaired ; platforms laid, guns mounted, the picketing at Cape Diamond and behind the Hotel Dieu repaired ; barriers were made between the upper and lower town, and at the extremities of the lower town, at Sault-au-Matelot, and at the other side, at Près-de-Ville, which, you may remember, is on the further side of the King's wharf, past the old King's forges ; these posts were strengthened with cannon. In that situation, we were in the month of December ; about the 14th, Mr. Montgomery got a battery formed of gabions, filled with snow, and rammed close, with water thrown on it, which made it freeze, which, intermixed with fascines and snow, did not answer well ; but, as well as could be expected. On this battery, he mounted five guns, 12 and 9-pounders, and then sent a flag of truce, which the General would not receive, except on condition that they came to implore the King's mercy, which, indeed, was the

† This sentence can leave no doubt that this letter was addressed to Genl. James Murray, as it is well known Murray had once owned, and had sold, the estates in this neighborhood to Col. Caldwell.

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