

AROUND A DATE

THE AMERICAN ATTACK ON QUEBEC

I believe that the late Mr. W. Kingsford, author of an extensive *History of Canada*, is the first who has advocated the first day of January, 1776, as the true date of the assault of Quebec by Montgomery and Arnold. Some historians since, amongst them Calkin and Clement, have adopted the same date, probably on Kingsford's authority.

Dr. Kingsford quotes as his authorities the journal attributed to Hugh Finlay, who wrote on the 31st December :

“ Wind N. E., very stormy, as Captain Malcolm Fraser, of the *Emigrants*, *who that night* was commanding the main guard, was going his rounds and had passed the guards between 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning, he perceived signals thrown on the heights without the works at Cape Diamond, etc., etc.”

If there is a man on earth who will understand by this quotation that the attack has been made on the first day of January, 1776, I would be glad to see this marvel of comprehension.

Colonel Caldwell's authority is not more conclusive. Let us quote what he says :

“ They (the enemy) remained quiet until the 31st of December: about five o'clock in the morning we were alarmed...”

How Dr Kingsford has been induced to use this authority, when it is evident by the phraseology that the alarm, imme-