

possible to collect them either for a regular retreat, or to bring them into action. In this dilemma, orders were given to as many of the troops to retreat as the time would permit, and in the most irregular, *helter skelter* manner we raised the siege, leaving every thing. All the camp equipage, ammunition, and even our clothing, except what little we happened to have on us. Two of their frigates proceeded immediately up the river, not only to annoy us in marching, but in quest of several vessels of the fleet which General Montgomery brought from Montreal. Wind and tide favouring the enemy's frigates, they were very nigh within cannon shot of ours before they could get under way. They hauled upon our shipping so rapidly, as obliged the captains to run them ashore, and put fire to them. They still kept in chase of us up the river both by land and water, and in the most disorderly manner we were obliged to escape as we could. The detachment stationed at Point Levi, as well as those at Chairleboe, were not apprised of a retreat till they saw our troops quitting the ground, and then they were between the army of us and the enemy. That obliged them to escape through the woods a very great distance before they fell in with the St. Lawrence. The most of our sick fell into their hands, with all hospital stores, &c. The first stand we endeavoured to make was at Point De Shombo, [Chambaud] 45 miles from Quebec, but not being able to collect provisions sufficient, were obliged to abandon it and proceed up along. The poor inhabitants seeing we were abandoning their country, were in the utmost dilemma, expecting as many as had been aiding us every way to be sacrificed to the barbarity of those whose severity they had long felt, though under the specious pretence of civil government, which, in fact, had been in essence nothing but an arrogant military one. No provisions could be obtained but by the force of arms. No conveniences for ferrying our troops over the rivers emptying in upon either side of the St. Lawrence, except a canoe or two, and these were rare. By reason of the spring flood which in this country is amazing in many low places, the army were obliged to travel a great distance round them, as the river had overflowed its banks in many places to the distance of several miles. In this perplexed situation we however arrived at Sorel about forty miles below Montreal, where we made a stand and collected our whole force, which was not very formidable. Notwithstanding several new recruits had by this time arrived. The small pox still very rife in the army - new troops few of them who had had it. I was ordered by Gen. Thomas who commanded, to repair to Montreal and erect an hospital for their reception, as well by the natural way as inoculation. I accordingly made application to General Arnold, then commanding in the city, and obtained a fine capacious house be-

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