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GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S EPITAPH

BY THE EDITOR

A remarkable instance of the inaccuracy inseparable from over hurried historical work is furnished by Dr. Kingsford's ¹ challenge of the date of General Richard Montgomery's death, as given by Benjamin Franklin in the epitaph inscribed upon the monument to Montgomery's memory, in front of St. Paul's church, New York. "He was killed under the walls of Quebec, during the attack made by him against that town on the 31st December, 1775," says Franklin. Kingsford places the date of the attack upon the 1st January, 1776, and though his work was only completed in 1898 he has already found imitators,—amongst them Calkin ² and Clement ³,—who have adopted the same date. Kingsford's attitude in this matter is not even borne out by his own authorities, as Dr. Dionne ⁴ has just pointed out. The Canadian historian has appealed to Hugh Finlay ⁵, to Colonel Caldwell ⁶,

1—*History of Canada*, by William Kingsford, L. L. D., F. R. S. C.—Toronto, 1893-98.

2—*History of the Dominion of Canada*, by John B. Calkin, M. A., Principal of the Normal School, Truro, Nova Scotia.—Halifax, 1898.

3—*The History of the Dominion of Canada*, by W. H. P. Clement, B. A., L. L. B.—Toronto, 1897. (Authorized for use in schools).

4—See *Around a date*, by N. E. Dionne, M. D., F. R. S. C., in *Le Courrier du Livre*, vol. IV, p. 346. March, 1900.

5—*The Journal of the Siege and Blockade of Quebec by the American Rebels in the autumn of 1775 and winter of 1776*. Attributed to Hugh Finlay, Postmaster-General.

6—Colonel Henry Caldwell was assistant-Quarter-Master General under Wolfe, and father of Sir Henry Caldwell formerly of Quebec. His manuscript letter, written on board the *Hunter* sloop-of-war on June 15th, 1776, is supposed to have been addressed to General James Murray.