

As a preliminary, it occurred to me to look up the Roman Catholic parish church register of Quebec, considered so justly a reliable and accurate record of marriages, births and deaths since the foundation of the colony.

I therein read of the burial of a French Canadian, by name Louis Vallerand, on the 1st January, 1776; the said Vallerand was killed at the engagement at Quebec the day previous, viz., the 31st December, 1775.

"Le premier janvier 1776, par nous, vicaire de Québec, soussigné, a été inhumé dans le cimetière de la Sainte-Famille le corps de Louis Vallerand, tué dans l'attaque livrée le trente et un décembre, âgé de vingt-cinq ans environ. Ont été présents Pierre-André Spénard, François Sasseville et plusieurs autres.

"(Signé) LEFEBVRE, *Ptre.*"

This entry alone, as Dr. Dionne observes, suffices to overturn Dr. Kingsford's theory.

In order to abridge the array of authorities which can be put forth on the task before me I shall, with Dr. Dionne's permission, confine myself to quote the leading authorities contained in his able dissertation, in addition to my own.

The doctor, after alluding to the accounts of the banquets commemorating the repulse of Montgomery and Arnold, to be found in the columns of the old "Quebec Gazette," 1776, 1779, etc., says: "The 'Quebec Herald' of the 14th January, 1790, mentions the annual banquet as follows: 'Thursday last, being the 31st December, the Veterans held their annual dinner.' " He quotes an extract of a letter written six days after the engagement by General Wooster to Colonel Warner, both distinguished officers of the Continental army.

"With the greatest distress of mind," writes the general, "I now sit down to inform you of the event of an unfortunate attack made upon Quebec between the hours of four and six of the morning of the 31st December last."

Then comes a passage taken from the journal of an English officer present at the siege, and inserted in W. Smith's "History of Canada," as follows: "31st December, Mr. Montgomery, with 900 of the best men, attacked Près-de-Ville, and Arnold, with 700 chosen fellows, attacked at Sault-au-Matelot."

We have next the statement of an eye-witness, one who saw all that took place before, pending and after the assault of December, 1775, viz., an extract of a pastoral letter from no less a personage than the Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, Monseigneur Briand. It is dated 29th December, 1776. This dignitary takes occasion to recall the memorable engagement, as a subject for congratulation, to his flock. "What," says his lordship, "are our feelings on the happy and glorious event of the 31st December, 1775."