

As a further evidence of their pacific designs towards the Canadians, the Congress on the first of June, 1775, *Resolved*, That as they "had nothing more in view than the defense of the colonies," "no expedition or incursion ought to be undertaken or made by any colony or body of colonies against or into Canada, and that this resolve be immediately transmitted to the commander of the forces at Ticonderoga," and further that this "resolve be translated into the French language and transmitted with the letter to the inhabitants of Canada."

The capture of Ticonderoga had been planned by a few gentlemen in Connecticut, who entrusted its execution to the celebrated Ethan Allen, of Vermont. Its capture was effected by less than three hundred men, and the commander was surprised in bed and summoned to surrender "in the name of the Lord Jehovah, and the Continental Congress." That this capture and that of Crown Point which shortly afterwards followed, had been intended as measures of precaution and as indispensable to maintaining a communication with the Canadians, may be very true, but circumstances soon led to more decided steps. The Addresses of the Congress, however eloquent and conclusive, made but little impression upon a people, scarcely any of whom could read. The presence of an armed force was deemed likely to have an effect upon the Canadians favourable to the Continental cause, especially if that force should prove triumphant. Accordingly, about three months after the adoption of the resolution against any invasion of Canada, two were undertaken, one under Montgomery, who advanced by way of St. John's upon the St. Lawrence river; the other under Arnold, (who had shared in the capture of Ticonderoga) by the Kennebec, and what was then an unbroken wilderness between its sources and those of the tributaries of the St. Lawrence. Of this latter expedition it is unnecessary here to speak, our society having not long since presented to the reading world a most valuable contribution to history in the journal of Dr. Senter, who accompanied this heroic band as surgeon. Of the doings of the army under Montgomery some details are necessary. St. John's was the first British post attacked, but the great scarcity of powder prevented its capture. To secure a supply, Chamblé, a fort about six miles from St. John's, was reduced, and its artillery and powder carried off and used in the siege of the latter. An attempt to repel them made under the command of Gen. Carlton, proved unsuccessful, and the fort fell into the possession of the Americans. A large supply of cannons, mortars and powder rewarded the victors, whose prisoners numbered five hundred.

Montreal submitted to them without resistance about the middle of November. This, with the subsequent capture of a number of boats in the river, gave them a full supply of ammunition and