

to assist the Bostonians, he made his way up the St. Lawrence, and on the second of June appeared before Quebec. Heroically did the garrison of that ancient city defend themselves, but when they learned that Toronto was in the hands of the enemy, and that the victorious army was marching upon Montreal, having destroyed the intervening towns and cut to pieces the intercepting Canadian columns, they accepted the honorable terms proposed, and surrendered.

The Commandant has been severely censured for not availing himself of a longer period of his position and opportunities. I cannot think that he deserved censure, and indeed had he persisted in his defence through the summer, as I grant he might have done, he would, in my opinion, have incurred a serious responsibility for the great loss of life which would have certainly ensued, while in the end he must have succumbed. It should be borne in mind that he had no chance whatever of relief from outside, and that the victorious army, marching from Toronto, consisted not of raw levies, as during the previous winter, but of tried soldiers recently from the South. Neither should it be forgotten that by the massacre at Kingston, Montreal was practically defenceless, as the city could expect no relief from the battalions at St. Hyacinth almost encompassed by the large and increasing forces of the enemy.

Had it not been that England and the United States were at the time on those friendly terms which have subsisted ever since, it is not improbable that, as a result of the war, Canada would have been absorbed by the Republic. England however exerted all her influence in our favor, and the King, who had a vivid remembrance of the reception extended to him by the people of the Provinces when he was Prince of Wales, sent an autograph letter to the President entreating, as a personal favor, that every possible indulgence might be extended to the Canadians in the final negotiations. The efforts of the British were far from being ineffectual, and although much was conceded by the Dominion, it was far less than had been anticipated. By the