

nothing is known with certainty; a circumstance the more to be regretted, as there is little doubt that his youth must have been marked by some of those features which so strongly characterised his subsequent life.

His first appearance in this country, of which we have any authentic account, was in the year 1760, when we find him accompanying the army sent under General Amherst for the reduction of Canada. The division to which he attached himself was sent from Oswego in Lake Ontario, to reduce Fort de Levi* then in possession of the French, and situated on the south side of the river St. Lawrence, near Oswegatchie. Mr. H. was present on this occasion; and afterwards accompanied the army in its descent down the St. Lawrence river towards Montreal. During this period he does not appear to have held any rank in the army, but acted as a volunteer, and had an adventure of merchandise along with him. It was on their descent down the rapids of the Cédars, a little below Lake St. Francis, on their way to Montreal at this time, that Mr. Henry made one of those "hair breadth 'scapes" of which his after-life offers numerous instances. By some unexplained mismanagement several boats were upset in descending these dangerous rapids† amongst others that which Mr. H. was on board of: he however succeeded in gaining the bottom of one which had been thrown upon a rock in the middle of the stream; and after remaining for some time, he was at last discovered, and relieved from his perilous situation by an aide-de-camp of the General's, at the imminent risk of his own life. All his three boats, loaded with merchandise, were lost by this disaster. The surrender of Montreal, and with it the whole of Canada, following soon after gave a new time to Mr. Henry's views; and the conclusion of the war closed for the time his pursuits as far as connected with the army. He however accompanied it to Montreal.

A clear and comprehensive mind, aided by strong talents for discrimination, soon pointed out to him the wide field for commercial pursuits, which the acquisition of this country had laid open to the British trader in the Fur market, and his enterprising spirit determined him to embark in it. Having, however, by the above mentioned accident, lost all his property, it became necessary to provide another supply, and for this purpose he returned to Albany, where his commercial connections resided; intending, after providing himself with goods suitable for the market, to return to Montreal. In this, he was foiled, from the lateness of the season; and was obliged to go to Fort William Augustus (Fort de Levi) where he remained till the month of January. Here he was not idle; he carefully embraced every opportunity of becoming more acquainted with the Indians, as a necessary prelude to his ulterior views of entering into a traffic with them; and after disposing of his stock of merchandise to the garrison came to

* Fort de Levi surrendered after a siege of seven days on the 21st of August, 1760, and the conquerors gave it the name of Fort William Augustus which it still retains.

† Several boats loaded with provisions and military stores and upwards of one hundred men were lost by this accident.