

will do so again, I opine. But she must be England—the England of history and of glorious achievements, fearless and strong, and not a great played-out nation, tottering to its fall; and the sooner the world knows her as such the better for the peace of the world.

THOS. SWIFT.

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### The Rustic Bridge.

I love the little hollow  
Crossed by the rustic bridge,  
I love the wheeling swallow  
That circles o'er the ridge;  
I love the oak and elm that grow  
Along the sloping bank,  
I even love the weeds below  
That flourish wild and rank.

I love the sunset shadows  
Cast by the swaying wold,  
Painting the rolling meadows  
With stripes of gray and gold;  
I love the moonlight shining through  
The lattice work of boughs,  
For there, sweetheart, I pledged to you  
My heart in whispered vows.

'Twas there when earliest flowers  
Among the tufted grass,  
Shot up 'neath April showers,  
That first I saw you pass.  
'Twas leaning on that rustic rail,  
The months had swiftly flown,  
I told in faltering words a tale  
That won you for my own.

The bridge is worse for weather,  
Fast falling to decay,  
Its frame scarce holds together,  
'Twill soon be swept away;  
Yet though the banks it linked before,  
Thus wide dis severed stand,  
The forms it bore in days of yore  
Shall still be hand in hand.

BARRY DANE.

### The Footprints of the Invader in 1775-6.

THOUGH the leading events marking the invasion of Canadian soil during the autumn of 1775 and winter months of 1776 are fully set forth in the narratives of our historians, there are numerous incidents of a secondary nature scantily recorded there, but which help materially to bring out in bold relief interesting phases of those troubled times.

The fateful year of 1775, *l'année terrible*, as the Canadian peasantry style it, left behind indelible memories, especially among the peasantry of Beauce District, through which the double traitor Benedict Arnold led his sturdy, but famine-stricken followers to defeat and surrender, in 1775.

Successive visits to the fertile French parishes on the River Chaudière, Ste. Marie, St. Joseph, St. François, St. George, brought me many stirring tales and quaint traditions handed down from father to son—of this *année terrible*—so glorious to the defenders of unconquerable Quebec; it was quite a pleasant task to note and compare them with the narratives of eye witnesses, such as Arnold, Thayer, Melvin, Senter, Meigs, Dearborn, Henry, who all left journals of the untoward expedition which the United States Historical Societies subsequently made public.

Erroneous impressions still exist as to the feelings of the English and French inhabitants of the Province at that critical juncture.

There was considerable disaffection and some disloyalty among the inmates of Quebec and Montreal and neighbouring localities. The Imperial ordinance of 1774, known as the Quebec Act, re-establishing the *coutume de Paris*, and recognizing the R. C. religion, whilst it was calculated to conciliate the French, the king's new subjects, was exceedingly distasteful to the English residents, the king's old subjects, and aroused the animosity and rancour of the New England Puritans and Protestants generally of the adjoining British provinces. Congress remonstrated in no measured terms to the Home Government against an Act establishing in a British colony a faith "steeped in blood

and in impiety," which Act they declared unconstitutional. Later on, when it became expedient to recall and explain these bitter taunts, in order to conciliate the Roman Catholic population of the province, it was discovered that all the eloquence of the delegates of Congress sent to Montreal—Franklin, Chase and Carroll—subsequently Roman Catholic bishop of Baltimore—was unequal to the task.

At the outset, the French, whose forced allegiance to Britain was barely sixteen years old, and who had met with unfriendliness on many occasions from the victors, seemed perplexed. What side were they to take in this bitter feud, this family quarrel between New England and Old England. Would it not be better policy to side with several of the disaffected British of Quebec and accept the glowing offers of the rebellious New Englanders?

A revered pastor and adviser, however, Bishop Briand, spoke out, and disloyalty gradually hid its head—though several Canadians among the peasantry, and some educated denizens of the city, such as Du Calvet, Pelissier and others, kept up active intelligence with the enemy, and Col. Livingstone, of New York, mustered 300 Canadians to help storm Quebec, on the fratricidal morning of the 31st December.

The incident I am going to relate—though it has received but scant notice in the general annals of the invasion—was more than the sensation of the hour; in fact, whilst it redounded to the credit of the three Canadian seigneurs—de Beaujeu, Couillard, de Gaspé—who had planned it, created by its issue intense excitement in the French parishes from Quebec to St. Jean Port Joly.

A contemporary, Simon Saugumet, a Montreal lawyer, who visited Quebec that spring, and who left an interesting memoir of the American invasion, writes:

"On the 26th of March (1776), there was formed a party of loyal Canadians, in the parish on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, numbering about 350, commanded by Captain de Beaujeu (seigneur of Crane Island), an old Canadian warrior. He pushed a detachment of about fifty men as far as the parish of St. Pierre, under the command of the Sieur Couillard, to favour his advance on Pointe Levy, opposite Quebec, hoping to pour succour, if possible, in the city. But another party of peasants—*habitants*—sprung up, who, with the aid of about one hundred and fifty *Bostonnais* (under Major Dubois), surrounded the house where the vanguard of the Royalists were stationed—attacked them briskly and made them prisoners. Three of the Royalists were killed outright, ten wounded, among them the Rev. Messire Bailly, a priest. Had the *Bostonnais* not prevented it, a massacre would have taken place of the prisoners. Eighteen prisoners were sent to Montreal and the rest allowed to return to their homes, with the promise they were not to take arms. Mr. de Beaujeu was compelled to dismiss his little army. In the melee, fathers were seen to fight against their sons and sons against their fathers—strange though this may seem."

Among the MSS. presented to the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, by one of its most distinguished presidents, the late George B. Faribault, there is one which the erudite antiquary received from the Hon. J. Malcolm Fraser, whose ancestor served at the blockade of Quebec, in 1775.

It may have been the work of Hon. Hugh Finlay or of Capt. Patrick Daly, of the 84th (Royal Emigrants), commanded in 1775 by Col. McLean.

This journal enters into many particulars, but it is so replete with rancour against the French-Canadians of the period that at times its perusal is irksome.

Its closing remarks appear very uncalled-for. The writer, a contemporary of Gen. R. Montgomery, late of the 17th Foot, in arms against his King, ought to have been the last to brand as "traitors in general" the French-Canadians of the period, when the rebel host was officered by former British officers, such as Richard Montgomery, Moses Hazen, Donald Campbell, when several of the leading merchants of Quebec and of Montreal sympathized openly or secretly with the Yankee invaders, such at Quebec as Lymburner, Wells, Bonfield, Zacharias McAuley, Murdoch Stuart.

This journal adds the name of William Ross, late of Fraser's Highlanders, to the list of the brave Canadian seigneurs who stood staunch in their allegiance. Under 8th April, 1776, we read: "About 100 Canadians were got together by one William Ross, who formerly served in