

Levis was reached, and after five days delay they succeeded in crossing the St. Lawrence, and landed unobserved at the very spot where Wolfe had landed sixteen years before.

Arnold expected that the *habitans* would eagerly rush to his banner, but in this he was disappointed. The French had no love for the British flag, but they found their lot under it much easier than it had been under France and her governors. Again, they had less love for the New Englanders: the hated *Bostonnais* had ever been their enemies, and so, of the two English speaking masters, they preferred the out-and-out Englishman. But Arnold and his men had come far and suffered much, and were eager to have their reward, so, although they had no encouragement from the inhabitants of Canada, they drew up before the walls of Quebec, and demanded an unconditional surrender.

When the citizens of Quebec saw the formidable force of the "Continental" army they trembled for the safety of their city, but their engineer, Mr. James Thompson, was far from being hopeless. He had received orders from General Carleton to put Quebec into a state of defence. Palace, Hope, and St. Louis gates, and the whole brow of Cape Diamond were fortified without loss of time. In the Lower Town all the windows facing the river were closed, loopholes alone being left for musketry. The defences were done hastily, but Thompson had no doubt that they would keep out the foe, till General Carleton arrived to take charge of the city, and to cement the English and French within the citadel into one grand resisting force.

Thompson's hopefulness diffused itself among the citizens, and when Arnold requested them to open their gates, they treated his demand with derision, climbing on the walls and hurling at him the opprobrious name "Horse Jockey," in reference to his having traded with them as a horse-dealer on former occasions. Thompson treated his demand in a more serious way, levelling at his troops a twenty-four pounder, that had the effect of showing them that they had watchful enemies within Quebec. Arnold's force had been reduced by desertion by one-third of its number, and he felt that, with his present strength, it would be impossible to storm the city, so he retreated to Pointe-aux-Trembles to await the arrival of General Montgomery and his army.