

before; and withal to observe the disposition, designs and movements of the inhabitants of the country. This reconnoiter I undertook reluctantly, choosing rather to assist at the siege of St. Johns, which was then closely invested; but my esteem for the general's person, and opinion of him as a politician and brave officer, induced me to proceed.

I passed through all the parishes on the river Sorel,* to a parish at the mouth of the same, which is called by the same name, preaching politics; and went from thence across the Sorel to the river St. Lawrence, and up the river through the parishes to Longueuil, and so far met with good success as an itinerant. In this round my guard were Canadians, my interpreter, and some few attendants excepted. On the morning of the 24th day of September, I set out with my guard of about eighty men, from Longueuil, to go to Laprairie;† from whence I determined to go to General Montgomery's camp; but had not advanced two miles before I met with

* Sorel or Richelieu River, the outlet of Lake Champlain, which after a course of about 69 miles north, empties into the St. Lawrence, in north lat. $46^{\circ}.10'$ and long. $72^{\circ}.25'$ west. Sorel Fort, built by the French, is at the western point of the mouth of this river.

† Laprairie, a populous little village, on the river St. Lawrence, in Canada, eighteen miles north of St. Johns, and nine south-west of Montreal.