

Roman Catholic Clergy had for England, because England had decreed that the tithes, (that is, the twenty-sixth part of every bushel of wheat, which Roman Catholics are bound by law to give to their priests,) and the seigniorial tenure, should not be abolished in Canada; and because they feared that both the tithes and the seigniorial tenure would be abolished if Canada became a Republic such as the United States. The lower classes, the same author observes, while they did not openly assist the Americans, did not, except by fear, assist England, but remained, as far as possible, indifferent to both the English and the Americans.*

During the war, the United States' soldiers came to Canada and captured, in 1775, the Forts Carillon, St. Frederic, and St. John. The latter fort, however, was retaken from them on the next morning by a body of 80 French Canadians. During the month of September, the Americans again invaded Canada under General Montgomery, with one thousand men. Being joined by the French Canadians of Chambly, a village 17 miles distant from Montreal, the Americans captured the fort which still stands there. Montgomery then took possession of Montreal and Three Rivers, the inhabitants of the suburbs, in Montreal, having, says Garneau, opened their gates to him, and expressed their sympathy with the Americans. Montgomery next appeared before Quebec, and being joined by Colonel Arnold, and now having about 1000 or 1200 men, he, on the 31st of December, commenced an attack upon that city. Quebec then contained about 5000 inhabitants, and had about 1800 men to defend it, composed of soldiers, sailors and Canadians. In the attack, Montgomery was killed, and his army was defeated. Upon the news of this defeat, the Americans sent, during the spring of 1776, some more soldiers to invade Canada, and they were accompanied by the celebrated philosopher, Benjamin Franklin, and two other persons named Chase and Carroll. These three gentlemen were ordered to converse with the Catholic clergy here to induce them to recommend the French Canadians to rebel against England. Their efforts did not succeed. The American soldiers then retreated from Quebec, being pursued by the English under General Carleton. During the month of May there were about 4000

* T. iii. pp. 391-92.