

even to the wounded in their beds were ordered a gun by their side. That if they did attack the Hospital to make the most vigorous defence possible. Orders were sent out into the villages round the city, to the Captains of the militia to immediately assemble to our assistance. The peasants, however friendly disposed, thought it too precarious a juncture to shew themselves in that capacity, and those nigh rather retreated back into the country, than give any assistance. The storm still continued tremendously. Colonel Livingston's Regiment who were employed in firing St. John's Gate made the best of their way off soon after the heavy fire began. Orders were dispatched up to St. Foy's for assistance from the party who were retreated, who assisted but little. An express was sent off to Congress informing of our situation, and requesting immediate assistance. No news from Greene's division to be depended on. The prospect was gloomy on every side. The loss of the bravest of Generals, with other amiable officers smote the breasts of all around with inexpressible grief. "Oh, Liberty! Oh, virtue! Oh, my country!" seemed the language of all.

January 1, 1776.—All in obscurity; no intelligence from the troops in the lower town. Some suggesting they were all-prisoners, &c., while others imagined they were in possession of the lower town, and waiting for assistance to enter the upper town. While in this suspense, Mr. Duncan, a young gentleman volunteer, desired the Colonel would give him liberty to attempt passing into the lower town in quest of the little detachment; received orders, went, but no return.

Tuesday, 2d. Major Meigs came out of the city on parole, by whom we obtained a history of the affair. That they forced their way into the lower town, captured one captain and company. That for some time before they got into the city, their guns were so foul, by reason of the inclement weather, as scarcely one of them could be discharged. That they were obliged, for a considerable time, to fight their way almost entirely with their lannuts, gun breeches, &c. That, under every disadvantage, they kept the lower town till nigh 11 o'clock, A. M., in hopes of General Montgomery's assistance, but not finding [it] were obliged to capitulate, and surrender themselves prisoners of war, &c. Said further, they were used very well. Carried in the officer's clothing, &c. Informed of Captain Hendricks, Lieut. Humphreys, and sundry others being slain. Returned the same day.*

Wednesday, 3d. Colonel Reine, a French gentleman, brevetted in commission by Arnold, and desired to go down the River St. Lawrence in order to bring in Canadians to our assistance, was

* Meig's Journal, Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., vol. 2, p. 243 to 247. Henry's Campaign, 111 to 125.