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THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF GENERAL MONTGOMERY

BY GEN. JAMES GRANT WILSON, D. C. L.

ONE hundred and twenty-five years ago, Richard Montgomery, commanding the American army that invaded Canada, fell in the attack on Quebec. After lying *perdu* among the papers of DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828), one of New York's most famous Governors, and the projector of the Erie Canal, for eight decades, the following most interesting historical letter was discovered, among his manuscripts. It was addressed to the Hon. John Taylor, then Lieutenant Governor under Clinton, and was written in 1818, by Gen. H. A. S. Dearborn, whose father Gen. Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), was one of the young American prisoners of Colonel Arnold's column, who was captured and confined in the Seminary, Quebec, for four months, and consequently was familiar with the circumstances connected with the death and burial of Montgomery, which occurred during the period of his confinement. The particulars as stated in the letter, were dictated to the younger Dearborn, who died in 1851. The father was senior Major-General of the United States army during the second war with Great Britain, and saw active service on the Canadian frontier. Later he was appointed American minister to Portugal, serving for several years, when he resigned and returned to his home in Roxbury, Mass., where he died at the age of seventy-eight. General Dearborn was the author of an account of the battle of Bunker Hill in which he took part, and also of a history of the American expedition of 1775 to Quebec, together with the story of his imprisonment in Canada's ancient capital.

" Boston, 4th March, 1818.

" Dear Sir,

" Having noticed in the papers, the report of Mr. Meigs from the Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of your State, relative to the