

Henry B. Carrington, who says: "It was not until the night of the thirtieth, when but one day of legal service remained for a large portion of the troops, that the preparations were complete;"¹ that is, that the preparations for the assault were completed only during the night of the thirtieth, when one day alone remained for the greater portion of the troops.

It was, then, indispensable not to wait for the 1st January to make the assault, as the term of service of a large portion of the soldiers expired with the end of the year. (Bancroft's "History of the United States," Vol. VII, p. 121).

Ill-clad, ill-fed, Montgomery's followers were little inclined for a winter campaign, fought with exposure and suffering. Many longed to return to their homes.

Perault,² Bibaud,³ Smith,⁴ Hawkins,⁵ and Gerneau,⁶ who wrote at the beginning of the century, and who could easily collect the traditions of the past, are unanimous in fixing to the 31st December, 1775, the attack on Quebec.

"Then," adds Dr. Dionne, "all the recent writers on this thrilling period agree in recording the assault on Quebec as taking place on the 31st December, 1775—Charles Rogers,⁷ who wrote in 1856, Rev. W. H. Withrow,⁸ Sir James M. LeMoine,⁹ L. P. Turcotte,¹⁰ and Faucher de St. Maurice."

In reply to a communication I addressed to a literary friend across the border, Mr. Edward Denham, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, drawing his attention to Dr. Kingsford's statement, I received a voluminous memoir, disclosing considerable research through the United States libraries and archives. Lack of space compels me to omit here even the title of the authorities, referring the reader to the text of the same, fully set forth in the last number of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada.

¹ "Battles of the American Revolution, 1775-81," p. 134.

² "Abrégé, Histoire du Canada, 2ème partie," p. 117.

³ "Histoire du Canada et des Canadiens sous la Domination Anglaise," p. 67.

⁴ "History of Canada," II, 161.

⁵ "Picture of Quebec," p. 427.

⁶ "Histoire du Canada, 1ère édition, 1848," t. III, p. 436.

⁷ "The Rise of Canada from Barbarism to Wealth and Civilization," p. 62.

⁸ "A Popular History of the Dominion of Canada, 1885," p. 279.

⁹ "V. Album de Touriste," pp. 33, 70, et suiv.

¹⁰ "Invasion du Canada et Siège de Québec, 1775-76; 1873," p. 47.