

*Benedict Arnold's Regimental Memorandum Book.*

and myself *first* undertook and projected taking that fort [Ticonderoga], and with the assistance of three other persons procured money, men, etc., and sent out on this expedition without any consultation with Assembly or others." This party was organized the latter part of April. As soon as Arnold arrived at Cambridge, he proposed to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety a scheme similar to that which Parsons had set upon foot, and on May 3d was commissioned as colonel with authority to enlist a body of men not exceeding 400 in number to carry out his designs. These troops were to be raised in the western part of Massachusetts and the neighborhood, and Arnold at once repaired to Stockbridge. There he learned that the Connecticut leaders had gone forward to surprise the fort, with the intention of calling to their assistance the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants. Leaving an officer to enlist men, as directed by the Massachusetts Committee, Arnold pushed on and overtook the Connecticut party at Castleton. It then consisted of a small number from Connecticut, a portion of a Massachusetts regiment under Colonel James Easton, and the Green Mountain Boys under Ethan Allen. Arnold exhibited his commission, and in an imperious manner claimed command of the expedition, informing the officers that they "had no proper orders." The men heard of the dispute, and threatened to return home if their leaders allowed themselves to be superseded. Their conduct had the effect of quieting Arnold, and he accompanied them as a volunteer. After the fort was taken he again pressed his claims, but they were disregarded, and the Connecticut Committee gave Allen command of the fort. The first entry in the Memorandum Book evinces the chagrin Arnold felt at the treatment he had received. In his letters to the Continental Congress and to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, he intimated that he had agreed with Allen that all orders should be issued by them jointly, but the testimony of the Connecticut Committee is overwhelmingly to the contrary. They wrote to the Massachusetts Congress that he caused them much difficulty. That while he claimed authority to command he had not enlisted one man, nor did they know that he could do so. Arnold's pretensions seem to have been based upon prospective grounds. He appears to have thought that the troops which would surely follow him should entitle his commission to an immediate recognition. This might with some reason have been expected from Easton and his men who were from Massachusetts, but why troops from Connecticut and the New Hampshire Grants, paid by Connecticut, and engaged in an expedition against a fortress in New York, should feel called upon to acknowledge a Massachusetts commission we are unable to understand. But Arnold was a man who, throughout his whole life, interpreted the circumstances with which he was confronted so as to make them accord with his own views.

Four days after the capture of the fort a small body of men, who had been enlisted under the authority given to Arnold, arrived at Ticonderoga. They came by way of Skenesborough, and brought with them a captured sloop. With this little force he fitted out an expedition against St. John. There