

A DIARY OF THE WEATHER

KEPT AT QUEBEC IN THE YEAR OF THE SIEGE BY THE AMERICANS
IN 1776 (1)

April 1st, 1776.—Wind soft at S. W. ; much thaw. We plainly discover four embrasures in the enemy's battery at Pointe Levi, and we are throwing shells into it.

2nd.—Wind S. W., warm clear sunshine. A cutter sent in the evening to look into Wolfe's cove, got inclosed in the ice and received some shots, but got clear.

3rd.—Wind easterly, soft and cloudy, heavy rain in the afternoon. The Pointe Levi battery playing on the town ; their aim the shipping in the Cul de Sac ; the frigate Lizard's foremast damaged by a shot. Some spent shots fell on the houses in Palace street.

4th.—Rain all night. We fire without intermission on the enemy.

5th.—Cold wind N. W., but thawing. A 13 inch shell burst over the Cul de Sac, and wounded a sailor. The enemy afraid to stand at their guns at Pointe Levi. Cut the fascines on their battery. Fatigue parties forming ditches in the snow outside of the walls ; the enemy firing on them.

6th.—Wind easterly and much thaw. Deserter informed us that they are soon to bombard us from Pointe Levi, the heights of Abram and the ferry-house at the Little River.

7th.—Rain, hail, sleet ; wind N. E.

8th.—Wind south and soft weather. In the evening a cannon shot entered a window in Upper Town, and carried off the head of the eldest boy, 10 years old, sitting at the tea table with his father, mother and family. Some roof a little damaged by the cannon shot.

9th.—Wind easterly, soft drizly weather. Enemy preparing a fire vessel to burn the shipping in the Cul de Sac.

(1) This *Diary* has been published in the *Quebec Gazette* of April 18th, 1832, and was preceded by the following note :

" SIR,—Perhaps the following diary of the weather kept at Quebec in the year of the siege by the Americans in 1776, will be of some interest at this time, when the season drags itself so slowly along. Some of the incidents recorded may instruct your readers."

This prefatory note was signed : " D. P. "