

home and trouble them no more, for that not a man of them would follow him. And as soon as he was gone they all made oath on the cross round which they were assembled, that they never would take arms against the invaders; that if one among them offered to join the Government, they would directly burn his house and his barn, and destroy his cattle; and that, if General Carleton should attempt to compel them into service, they would repel force by force."

This happened in the latter end of July or the beginning of August, 1775.

Afterwards, about the end of September, Mr. Lanaudière, seignior of another place, came to them from Montreal and said that he was employed by General Carleton to lead them against the provincials—martial law having been declared in the interval—otherwise he assured them that their lands and houses should be laid waste and burnt. Upon his return in a few days to enforce his mission he, Mr. Tonnancour, and sixteen others who accompanied him were all made prisoners by the inhabitants.

Warm debates ensued among them, whether or not they should send Mr. Lanaudière to the provincial (invaders) camp near St. Johns. It was at length agreed to set him and his friends at liberty on his promise to obtain for them General Carleton's pardon for this outrage, and on his further promise never to come again amongst them on a like errand.

Violent as the proceedings of these people may appear, and averse as they may seem to the service required of them, they had intimated that if General Carleton would promise by affixing a writing to that purpose to the church door, that he would use his influence and endeavors for the repeal of the Quebec Bill and for restoring to them those privileges of which they were deprived by its operation; in that case they all declared themselves ready to defend the province for Government. "But," say they, "as things