

of '76. But the feeble grasp with which we held that remote province was not long to be continued. On the first of April, Col. Hazen, who had taken command at Montreal, on the departure of General Wooster, and before the arrival of Arnold, thus wrote to General Schuyler :

“ You are not unacquainted with the friendly disposition of the Canadians when General Montgomery, first penetrated into the country. The ready assistance they gave on all occasions, by men, carriages, or provisions, was most remarkable. Even when he was before Quebec, many parishes offered their services in the reduction of that fortress, which were at that time thought unnecessary. But his most unfortunate fate, added to other incidents, has caused such a change in their disposition, that we no longer look upon them as friends, but, on the contrary, as waiting an opportunity to join our enemies. That no observations of my own may remain obscure, I beg leave to observe that I think the clergy, or guardians of the souls and conductors of the bodies of these enthusiasts, have been neglected, perhaps, in some instances, ill used. Be that as it will, they are unanimous, though privately, against our cause, and I have to much reason to fear that many of them, with other people of some consequence, have carried on a correspondence the whole winter with General Carleton in Quebec, and are now plotting our destruction. The peasantry in general have been ill used. They have, in some instances, been dragooned with the point of the bayonet to supply wood for the garrison at a lower rate than the current price. For carriages and many other articles furnished, illegible certificates have been given without signature ; the one-half, of consequence, rejected by the Quartermaster-General. It is true, payment has been promised from time to time ; yet they look upon such promises as vague, their labor and property lost, and the congress or united colonies bankrupt. And in a more material point, they have not seen sufficient force in the country to