

memorating the repulse of Montgomery and Arnold, to be found in the columns of the old "Quebec Gazette," 1776, 1779, etc., says: "The 'Quebec Herald' of the 14th January, 1790, mentions the annual banquet as follows: 'Thursday last, being the 31st December, the Veterans held their annual dinner.'" He quotes an extract of a letter written six days after the engagement by General Wooster to Colonel Warner, both distinguished officers of the Continental army:

"With the greatest distress of mind," writes the general. "I now sit down to inform you of the event of an unfortunate attack made upon Quebec between the hours of four and six of the morning of the 31st December last."

Then comes a passage taken from the journal of an English officer present at the siege, and inserted in W. Smith's "History of Canada," as follows: "31st December, Mr. Montgomery, with 900 of the best men, attacked Pres-de-Ville, and Arnold, with 700 chosen fellows, attacked at Sault-au-Matelot."

We have next the statement of an eye-witness, one who saw all that took place before, pending and after the assault of December, 1775, viz., an extract of a pastoral letter from no less a personage than the Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, Monsigneur Briand. It is dated 29th December, 1776. This dignitary takes occasion to recall the memorable engagement as a subject for congratulation to his flock. "What," says his lordship, "are our feelings on the happy and glorious event of the 31st December, 1775!"

Bishop Briand, a resident of Quebec, surely could not have been mistaken as to the date in alluding to such a recent occurrence!

Dr. Dionne also puts forth an important document, the text of the inscription on Richard Montgomery's tombstone at St. Paul's Church, New York, showing "31st December, 1775," as the date of his death. This inscription was prepared by Benjamin Franklin. Is it likely that such an eminent man as Dr. Franklin should have inserted this date thoughtlessly and without consulting well-informed persons on this subject?

Among United States travellers who have published books on the campaign of 1775, Dr. Dionne mentions the following: Sanson,¹ Silliman,² and a well-known American writer on the battles of 1775-81,

¹ "Sketches of Lower Canada, Historical and Descriptive, with the Author's Recollections, 1817," p. 631.

² "Remarks made on a Short Tour between Hartford and Quebec in the Autumn of 1819-1820," p. 284.