

the vessels bulding at St. John's would be ready for service, appeared before that place with upwards of 1000 men on the 6th of September, but attempting to land they were beaten back to their boats with some loss and retreated to the Isle-aux-Noix; on the night of the 10th a detachment of 800 men under Montgomery again landed near the fort, but after marching through the woods till daylight they were again attacked by the Iroquois and forced into a precipitate retreat.

The inaction of the garrison on these occasions is a matter of some surprise as the fort was held by 500 regular troops of the 7th and 26th regiments under the command of Major Preston of the latter regiment, who appears to have been a mere parade soldier who knew nothing of his profession. Chambly was garrisoned by 100 men of the 7th regiment commanded by its Major, Stopford, who added to the other's incapacity an imbecility altogether his own.

On the 17th the rebels were under Montgomery's command (Schuyler having fallen ill), once more embarked and the Indians having withdrawn from some cause or other (probably the gallant Preston kept himself behind the walls of his fort and left them to do all the fighting, a cause of proceeding common with his class, but the value of which they could not appreciate) made good their landing without opposition and proceeded formally to invest the fort occupying at once the line of communications with Chambly. This roused the commandant at St. John's, and a well conducted sortie drove them off, but on the 18th the force holding the communications were obliged to retire being unsupported. The siege, if a blockade can be called that, which was conducted on the one side by cowards and on the other by fools—the rebel officers declared they could not get their men within musket shot of the works, and the English officers would not let their men outside the palisades—dragged on till the 18th October. On that day Major J. Livingstone with 300 men attacked Fort Chambly, which through the cowardice and bad conduct of Major Stafford, after 36 hours investment yielded to the invaders. The garrison numbered 160 men of which not one was killed or wounded. All the women and children belonging to the troops at St. John's had taken refuge there. A large quantity of provisions, military stores and 124 barrels of gunpowder, a quantity of shot and shell, over 200 stand of small arms, 17 pieces of artillery, and rigging for three vessels as well as the colours of the 7th Regiment of foot was the reward of the enterprise. If this fort had held out for a single day the rebels would have had to raise the siege of both it and St. John's as they were reduced to their last round of ammunition. The colours of the 7th were sent to Philadelphia and presented to the "Rebel Congress," then in session. The President, John Hancock, had them "hung

up in Mrs. Hancock's chamber with great elegance and splendor."

Previous to the capture of Char by the rebels had only ten six-pounder guns and next to no ammunition. They had never formed a regular battery, but the 29th of October regular approaches were commenced and next day ten guns and mortars were mounted and preparations made for opening a regular fire on the works preparatory to a general assault.

Meanwhile Sir Guy Carleton was not idle although he had a difficult and dangerous part to play. Of all the English in the Colony very few were loyal, and many were busily engaged sowing treason around him. The Canadian clergy and seigneurs exerted themselves to the utmost to procure recruits, the parishes about Chambly contained a disaffected population whose grievances were aggravated by the arts of prominent Montreal merchants of French and English extraction, particularly Mr. Cazeau and Thos. Walker. Through the acts of these men the Iroquois were induced to withdraw, and Carleton's first levies in the neighborhood of those parishes were disaffected. However, on the 30th October, at the head of 800 men commanded by M. de Beaujeu, he attempted to raise the siege, but for the reasons above given they retired without any loss except a few prisoners left in the hands of the enemy.

Immediately after this Col. Ethan Allen, at the head of 110 men, attempted to capture Montreal. He landed at night and was to have been joined by every traitor within the town, mostly all of British race, but the French Canadian inhabitants to the number of 300 with 60 British soldiers attacked him at Long Point, completely destroyed his force and took himself prisoner.

On the 1st November the besiegers opened fire on the works at St. John's and were answered by the 48 pieces of artillery mounted on the forts. In the evening Montgomery sent a flag to Major Preston with one of the prisoners captured, when Carleton retreated with a request that since relief was hopeless the Fort might be surrendered. After some negotiation terms of capitulation were signed on the 2nd of November. The garrison obtaining all the honors of war, and to the number of 600 marched out, grounded their arms and became prisoners.

The Rebel Congress, as they had set themselves above all human laws, broke the terms of the capitulation and kept the soldiers close prisoners till the end of the war. On the part of the rebels only 9 were killed and 4 or 5 wounded in this remarkable siege; of the British even a less number of casualties could be reckoned, and it was one of the most disgraceful affairs in which British soldiers have ever been engaged. No necessity existed at all for a surrender. On the contrary, after all their success a brisk sally, well supported would have driven off the rebels, who were every day deserting, but the British troops do not appear to have

had an officer of enterprise or ability amongst them. They were emphatically an army of lions led by asses.

The condition of Canada was perilous in the extreme, treachery was every where at work and it would undoubtedly have been lost to Great Britain but for the concessions made by the "Quebec Act;" the abhorrence felt by the Canadian noblesse and clergy for the bigotry and treachery of congress, the chivalric feeling of loyalty to their engagements which have always distinguished the people, and the personal services and popularity of the Governor Sir Guy Carleton.

Immediately on the fall of St. John's the vessels on the St. Lawrence were seized by the rebels and the position of Carleton who remained in Montreal had become perilous; his rescue is one of the most romantic incidents connected with this war alike for the gallantry and address as well as the cool courage and self possession displayed by the brave seaman who accomplished it.

LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT IN FRANCE.

(From "Maisons de Sante," in the "Cornhill Magazine" for June.)

Once shut up by order of the police, heaven help you! for your chances of regaining your liberty are small indeed. There is no free press to take up your case, and stir up public indignation in your behalf. Were even your plight known to the best-disposed of newspaper editors, he could never risk a fine and the interdiction of his paper in taking up the cudgels for you. Your only chances of getting loose would therefore lie in an escape, or in the private intervention of some respectable friend nearly or distantly connected with the authorities, and who would consent to hold himself responsible for your future quiet behaviour, or promise that you should immediately quit the country. One finds in history that it was in the time of Napoleon I. that maisons de santé first played an important part in the Government as private State prisons. They replaced the Bastille and the "lettres de cachet," so much in honour in the last century, and were made by Fouché to serve the ends of more than one political villainy. In 1802, the Prince de Polignac, afterwards so famous as Prime Minister of Charles X., was condemned for conspiracy to two years imprisonment; but at the end of that time, instead of regaining his liberty, he was removed with his brother to a maison de santé, where they both remained incarcerated ten years, their captivity only ending, in fact, with the reign of the Emperor. Mlle. de Narbonne Fritzlar, too, the lovely Duchess of Cheureuse, some time maid of honour to the Empress Josephine, was, in 1808, cloistered in a maison de santé, on account of the political aversion she had evinced for Bonaparte; and, again, it was from a private lunatic asylum, in which he had been many years arbitrarily confined, that General Mallet escaped on the night of October 23, 1812, whilst the Grand Army was in Russia, and attempted that *coup d'état* which, ill-organized as it was, very nearly succeeded in overthrowing the Government. Under the Bourbons, up to 1830, it was the turn of the Bonapartists to fill the maisons de santé; under Louis Philippe the Republicans and the Legitimists were more or less shut up in them, and since the establishment of the Second Empire, it has been towards the persecution of political writers in country newspapers, or of too free-thinking students, that maisons de santé have been directed.