

withstand any powerfully organized force. In this crisis Canada was more indebted to the current of events which, in the view of congress, made an invasion by French troops inexpedient, and without this aid no invasion was possible, than to her own power of resistance, or to the foresight exercised in the mother country for her defence. It was not the sense of the strength of the province or lukewarmness in the sentiment which had dictated Montgomery's expedition that deterred congress from the attempt, for Canada continued to be a coveted possession. Until 1780, the project was warmly entertained, and an influential party in congress ardently desired that the attempt should be made, if it were only to wipe out the memory of 1776.

In 1780, Hazen, accompanied by four Indians and some French Canadians, traced a line from the settlements of Vermont to the Saint Francis, with the view of determining the line by which an expedition could most favourably enter the province. They were accompanied by one Traversy, an active French Canadian agent of congress. Several attempts had been made to arrest this man in his frequent visits to his family, for his intrigues were known, but those who sympathised with his opinions made the capture impossible. The subordinate agents, concealed by their obscurity, thus received continued incentives to activity, and they kept the country in a state of agitation by their prognostications of an immediate attack.

D'Estaing's proclamation had been issued from Boston in November, 1778, and in no long time it was known throughout Canada. It was addressed purely to French feeling, and its effect penetrated within every household. It mysteriously appeared on the doors of the parish churches, almost simultaneously, shewing the sentiment with which it was welcomed.

Affixed to the church at Saint Ours, it was brought by the *curé*, M. Porlier, to the officer commanding at Sorel. It was the only report of the character made, notwithstanding the extent of the dissemination. Neither ecclesiastic nor seigneur considered it a duty to convey information on the subject to

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