

NORTH AMERICAN.

[VOL. 1.]

Canadian Rights and Canadian Independence.

[NO. 48.]

PUBLISHED BY H. J. THOMAS.

SWANTON, VT. MARCH 11, 1840.

EDITED BY CANADIANS & AMERICANS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN
IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.
Price \$1 50 per an. in advance,
or \$2 00 at the end of the year,
and in like proportion for fur-
ther delay of payment.

Original.

HISTORY OF CANADA.

(CONTINUED.)

The want of specie was one of the great-
est obstacles in the way of successful opera-
tions in Canada, and according to the
instructions given to the Commissioners,
who had been named by Congress to pro-
ceed northward, notice had been given
to the Canadian people that they would
not be forced to take the Continental bills
against their will. Nothing was more
difficult at that critical juncture than to
procure hard money;—yet Congress con-
trived an expedient, which, it was thought
would answer in the present circumstan-
ces, which was to encourage sutlers to
follow the American army into Canada,
who should engage to give the commissary
all the specie they should receive for
their articles, and in return the commissary
was to give them drafts to be counter-
signed by the General, and which were to
be paid by the President of Congress.

On the 15th Feb. Congress gave an order
to the secret committee to deliver to
Col. Maxwell 150 stands of arms for the
use of such companies of his battalion as
might be in want of them, in order that
they might proceed without any further
delay towards Canada, where they were
very much needed.

Such was the condition of the American
army in Canada, that there was but little
prospect of maintaining themselves, if they
were not speedily reinforced. In their
respective letters, General Schuyler, Wooster
and Arnold, had tried to impress upon
the members of Congress the absolute
necessity of being less tardy in their proceed-
ings, and more particularly in sending
new troops to Canada. But unfortunately,
with that body as with all other delibera-
tive bodies, time passed in discussion;
these orders had to be transmitted often
to distant parts of the United Colonies;
those who received these orders were for
the most part totally unprepared for carry-
ing them into execution; this had to be re-
presented to Congress, and again
taken into consideration; and in addi-
tion to this, orders were frequently
countermanded. These delays of course
proved ruinous to the American cause in
Canada, where every thing depended upon
the efficacy and promptness of the means
put into the hands of the Commander.
Congress on the 16th Feb., passed the
following resolution:

Resolved, That the secret committee
be directed to furnish Colonel St. Clair's
battalion with arms, and that the president
write to Colonel St. Clair, and direct
him to use the utmost diligence in getting
his battalion ready, and to march the
companies, one at a time, as fast as they
can be got ready, to Canada, with all possible
expedition."

Messrs. Duane, Nelson, Gervy, Smith
and Willing were chosen a committee to
consider what were the best ways and
means for supplying gold and silver for the
support of the Provincial army in Canada,
as it was totally impossible for the Ameri-
can forces to support themselves in that
Province with Continental bills, which the
Canadian peasantry would not take in
exchange for their produce. We shall
have to speak in the course of this history,
of the arbitrary conduct of Gen. Arnold
who tried to force these bills on the
Canadian people, declaring by proclama-
tion that all those who had refused to take
Continental money, should be treated as
open enemies of the American cause. No
conduct could be more impolitic than that
of Gen. Arnold on this occasion.

Congress finding the expedition was
far from being prosperous in Canada, and
that a great deal of the misfortunes now
attending that campaign, was to be traced
to the conduct of the officers at the head

of the expedition, ordered on the 15th,
that a committee of three should be named
to proceed immediately to Canada in order
to enquire into the existing difficulties, and
also to suggest such remedies as should be
thought proper.

"The Congress, taking into consideration
the report of the committee of correspon-
dence,

Resolved, That a committee of three
(two of whom to be members of Congress)
be appointed to repair to Canada, there to
pursue such instructions as shall be given
them by Congress:

The members chosen, were Dr. Benj.
Franklin, Mr. S. Chase, and Mr. Carroll,
of Carrollton.

Resolved, That Mr. Carroll be request-
ed to prevail on Mr. John Carroll to ac-
company the committee to Canada, to as-
sist them in such matters as they shall think
useful:

That this Congress will make provision
to defray any expenses which may attend
this measure.

Resolved, That eight tons of powder be
immediately sent to Canada, for the use
of the forces there."

Two days afterwards Messrs. J. Adams,
Whyte and Sherman were appointed a
committee to prepare instructions to those
who had been named to proceed to Cana-
da, which instructions were read and duly
approved on the 20th March, after having
been debated paragraph by paragraph—
they were as follows:

Instructions to Benjamin Franklin,
Samuel Chase, and Charles Carroll,
of Carrollton, Commissioners appointed
to go to Canada.

GENTLEMEN,—You are with all conven-
ient dispatch, to repair to Canada, and to
make known to the people of that coun-
try, the wishes and intentions of the Con-
gress with respect to them.

Represent to them, that the arms of the
United Colonies, having been carried into
that province for the purpose of frustrating
the designs of the British court against our
common liberties, we expect not only to
defeat the hostile machinations of Governor
Carleton against us, but that we shall put
it in the power of our Canadian brethren
to pursue such measures for securing their
own freedom and happiness, as a gener-
ous love of liberty and sound policy shall
dictate to them.

Inform them, that in our judgment, their
interests and ours are inseparably united;
that it is impossible we can be reduced to
a servile submission to Great Britain with-
out their sharing our fate: And, on the
other hand, if we shall obtain, as we doubt
not we shall, a full establishment of our
rights, it depends wholly on their choice,
whether they will participate with us in
those blessings, or still remain subject to
every act of tyranny, which British minis-
ters shall please to exercise over them.
Urge all such arguments as your prudence
shall suggest, to enforce our opinion con-
cerning the mutual interest of the two
countries, and to convince them of the im-
possibility of the war being concluded to
the disadvantage of these colonies, if we
wisely and vigorously co-operate with
each other.

To convince them of the uprightness of
our intentions towards them, you are to
declare, that it is our inclination, that the
people of Canada may set up such a form
of government, as will be most likely, in
their judgement, to produce their happi-
ness: And you are, in the strongest terms,
to assure them, that it is our earnest
desire to adopt them into our union, as a
sister colony, and to secure the same gen-
eral system of mild and equal laws for
them and for ourselves, with only such
local differences as may be agreeable to each
colony respectively.

Assure the people of Canada, that we
have no apprehension that the French will
take any part with Great-Britain; but,
that it is their interest, and we have reason
to believe their inclination, to cultivate
a friendly intercourse with these colonies.

You are from this, and for such other
reasons as may appear proper, to urge the
necessity the people are under of immedi-
ately taking some decisive step, to put
themselves under the protection of the Uni-
ted-Colonies. For expediting such a mea-
sure, you are to explain to them our meth-
od of collecting the sense of the people,
and conducting our affairs regularly by
committees of observation and inspection
in the several districts, and by conventions
and committees of safety in the several
colonies. Recommend these modes to them.
Explain to them the nature and principles
of government among freemen; develop-
ing, in contrast to those, the base cruel,
and insidious designs involved in the late
act of parliament, for making a more effec-
tual provision for the government of the
province of Quebec. Endeavour to stimu-
late them by motives of glory, as well as
interest, to assume a part in a contest, by

which they must be deeply affected; and
to aspire to a portion of that power, by
which they are ruled; and not to remain
the mere spoils and prey of conquerors and
lords.

You are further to declare, that we hold
sacred the rights of conscience, and may
promise to the whole people, solemnly in
our name, the free and undisturbed exer-
cise of their religion; and, to the clergy,
the full, perfect, and peaceable possession
and enjoyment of all their estates; that
the government of every thing relating to
their religion and clergy, shall be left en-
tirely in the hands of the good people of
that province, and such legislature as they
shall constitute; provided, however, that
all denominations of christians be equally
entitled to hold offices, and enjoy civil priv-
ileges, and the free exercise of their reli-
gion, and be totally exempt from the pay-
ment of any tithes or taxes for the support
of any religion.

Inform them, that you are vested, by
this Congress, with full power to effect
these purposes; and, therefore, press them
to have a complete representation of the
people assembled in convention, with all
possible expedition, to deliberate concern-
ing the establishment of a form of govern-
ment, and an union with the United Colo-
nies. As to the terms of union, insist on
the propriety of their being similar to those
on which the other colonies unite. Should
they object to this, report to this Congress
the objections, and the terms on which
alone they will come into our union.
Should they agree to our terms, you are
to promise, in the name of the United
Colonies, that we will defend and protect
the people of Canada against all enemies,
in the same manner as we will defend and
protect any of the United Colonies.

You are to establish a free press, and to
give directions for the frequent publication
of such pieces as may be of service to the
cause of the United-Colonies.

You are to settle all disputes between the
Canadians and the continental troops, and
to make such regulations relating thereto,
as you shall judge proper.

You are to make a strict and impartial
enquiry into the cause and imprisonment of
Colonel Du Frey, lieutenant-colonel Nefeu,
major St. George Dupre, and major Gray,
officers of the militia, and of John Fraser,
Esquire, late a judge of the police of
Montreal, and take such orders concerning
them as you may judge proper.

In reforming any abuses you may ob-
serve in Canada, establishing and enforcing
regulations for the preservation of peace
and good order there, and composing dif-
ferences between the troops of the Uni-
ted-Colonies and the Canadians, all officers
and soldiers are required to yield obedi-
ence to you; and, to enforce the decisions
that you or any two of you may make, you
are empowered to suspend any military offi-
cer from the exercise of his commission, till
the pleasure of the Congress shall be
known, if you, or any two of you, shall
think it expedient.

You are also empowered to sit and vote
as members of councils of war, in directing
fortifications and defences to be made, or
to be demolished, by land or by water;
and to draw orders on the president for any
sums of money, not exceeding one hundred
thousand dollars in the whole, to defray
the expense of the works.

Lastly, You are, by all the means you
can use, to promote the execution of the
resolutions now made, or hereafter to be
made, in Congress.

On motion, Resolved, That the following
additional instructions be given to the com-
missioners aforesaid:—

You are empowered and directed to pro-
mote and encourage the trade of Canada
with the Indian nations, and to grant pas-
s-ports for the carrying it on, as far as it
may consist with the safety of the troops,
and the public good.

You are also directed and authorized to
assure the inhabitants of Canada, that their
commerce with foreign nations shall,
in all respects, be put upon an equal foot-
ing with, and encouraged and protected
in the same manner, as the trade of the
United Colonies.

You are also directed to use every wise
and prudent measure to introduce and give
credit and circulation to the continental
money in Canada.

In case the former resolution of Congress
respecting the English American troops in
Canada has not been carried into effect,
you are directed to use your best endeav-
ours for forming a battalion of the New
York troops in that country, and to ap-
point the field and other officers out of the
gentlemen who have continued there dur-
ing the campaign, according to their re-
spective ranks and merit. And, if it should
be found impracticable, you are to direct
such of them as are provided for in the
four battalions now raising in New York,
to repair to their respective corps. To
enable you to carry this resolution into
effect, you are furnished with blank com-
missions, signed by the president.

Resolved, That the memorial from the

Indian traders, residing at Montreal, be
delivered to the commissioners going to
Canada.

The draught of the commission being
taken into consideration, and debated by
paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

The delegates of the United Colonies of
New Hampshire, &c. &c. to Benjamin
Franklin, L. L. D. member of the royal
academy of sciences at Paris, F. R. S.
&c. &c. one of the delegates of the colony
of Pennsylvania; Samuel Chase, Esq.,
one of the delegates of the colony of Mary-
land, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton,
Esq., of the said colony of Maryland,
greeting: Know ye, that we, reposing
special trust and confidence in your zeal,
fidelity, abilities, & assiduity, do, by these
presents, constitute and appoint you, or
any two of you, commissioners for and on
behalf of us, and all the people of the Uni-
ted Colonies, whom we represent, to pro-
mote, or to form an union between the
said colonies and the people of Canada,
according to the instructions herewith
delivered you, and such as you may hereafter
receive; and to execute all such matters
and things as you are or shall be directed
by your said instructions; and we do re-
quire all officers, soldiers, and others who
may facilitate your negotiation, or pro-
mote the success thereof, to aid and assist
you therein; and you are, from time to
time, to transmit and report your proceed-
ings to Congress. This commission to
continue in force till revoked by this or a
future Congress.

Dated at Philadelphia, this 26th day of
March, 1776. By order of Congress."

Gen. Schuyler had been instructed by
Congress to establish provision stores at
suitable places on the Hudson river be-
tween Albany and the Highlands, so as to
supply such troops as were called out on
their march to Canada.

Congress on the 17th Feb., passed the
following resolutions.

"That the offer made by general Schuy-
ler to pay at the rate of four shillings per
day, for each of the sleds hired to forward
the Pennsylvania and New Jersey forces
in their march to Canada, be complied
with:

That the officers in the continental ar-
mies be enjoined to use their utmost dili-
gence in preventing every kind of plunder;
and that all who shall offend herein, be
punished according to the strictest disci-
pline:

That the resolves of Congress for en-
couraging sutlers, to attend the army in
Canada, be published, with the informa-
tion that hosiery, shoes, coarse linens,
soap, rum, sugar, and wine, are much
wanted there:

That a few artificers, such as armour-
ers, smiths, carpenters, harness-makers
and wheelwrights, with proper persons to
superintend them, be forthwith sent to
Canada.

That it be recommended to the conven-
tion of New York, that such of the offi-
cers, who served faithfully in Canada the
last campaign, as are willing to continue
there, be preferred, in the new levies of
the colony of New York, to others."

Before resuming the account of the
military operations of the Provincial army
in Canada, we must recall to the memory
of our readers the fact that Congress had,
on the 25th January, expressed its desire
that a funeral oration should be delivered
by Dr. Smith, in honor of the brave Mont-
gomery, and of those officers and soldiers
who fought and fell with him in maintain-
ing the principles of American liberty.
This funeral oration was delivered on the
19th February following; and in order to
attend this oration, and out of respect for
the memory of Gen. Montgomery, and those
who had fallen with him, Congress ad-
journed to the next day, without proceed-
ing to any other business.

We shall for the moment lay aside the
proceedings of Congress in regard to the
Canadian expedition, and will turn the at-
tention of our readers to what was going
on in that province. We have already
given, we think, a pretty correct account
of the most important events which took
place in Canada since the Americans had
invaded it, and have taken great pains to
give as accurate an account as possible of
the attack on Quebec.

The next day, 1st January, 1776, be-
gan a new year, which was to be peculiarly
unhappy for the friends of liberty in Can-
ada. The last hope of redemption for
that doomed country had already vanished
in the death of the gallant Montgomery,
which was to be succeeded by events yet

more appalling to the hearts of those who
hated British tyranny. The poor Cana-
dians were yet doomed to be the slaves of
the British, and in spite of their gallant
resistance to trans-atlantic oppression they
were yet to suffer more than they had al-
ready done. As with individuals so it is
with nations—a trivial circumstance will
often affect them and turn the scales for
against a whole people's happiness.

On the 1st January, the commander of
Quebec, gave orders that the corpses which
laid near *Pres-de-Ville* battery, should be
brought into the city, which order was im-
mediately fulfilled. On the same day the
bodies of thirteen individuals were brought
in, among which were found those of capt.
M'Pherson and of capt. Cheeseman, both
aids to general Montgomery. These bod-
ies were both identified. It was not till
that day that the British were apprized,
through two American deserters, that Gen.
Montgomery was missing, and that it was
supposed in the American camp that he
was among the slain. It was unfortunatel-
ly too true; after a careful examination of
the bodies which had been brought in from
Pres-de-Ville, the body of the General was
recognised.

On the 4th, capt. Anderson, who, as we
have already mentioned, had been killed at
the assault on *Sault-au-Matelot*, was
buried with military honours. On the
same day General Montgomery was also
buried, but without any ceremony what-
ever. It was then on false information
that Botta, in his history of the American
Revolution, says that general Carleton or-
dered that the body of the American Gen-
eral should be interred with all the usual
military honours. Botta makes this the
base of a grand eulogium of the sublime
generosity and noble sentiments which
actuated the Governor of Canada. Sir
Guy Carleton might have been an honest
man in private life, but in his official ca-
pacity we find him a patron, a tyrant, and
a coward; else why did he sanction and
approve the cruel and indignant treatment
inflicted on Col. Ethan Allen? That he
should order a coffin for the body of Gen.
Montgomery is nothing more nor less than
what any man would do towards the
remains of a fellow being. We are yet to
be convinced that sentiments of generosity
and philanthropy are prevalent among Brit-
ish officers; more particularly towards their
enemies in arms. At any rate the history
of Canada thus far furnishes not a single
instance.

To close our remarks on those unfortu-
nate and noble victims who fell in freedom's
cause under the walls of Quebec, we copy
the following note in relation to Capt.
MacPherson, one of the *aide-de-camps* of
Gen. Montgomery, from Smith's History
of Canada—vol. 2, page 110, as follows:
"M'Pherson was a very promising young
man, whose father resided in Philadelphia,
and had made a considerable fortune by
Privateering; this gentleman had a broth-
er in the 16th Regiment in the English
service, at the time of Montgomery's ex-
pedition in Canada, and who was as vio-
lent in favor of the English Government,
as the General's Aide de Camp was enthu-
siastic in the cause of America; the latter
had accompanied his General a day or two
previous to the attack in which they both
lost their lives, to view and meditate on
the spot where Wolfe had fallen; on his re-
turn he found a letter from his brother,
the English officer, full of the bitterest re-
proaches against him for having entered
into the American service, and containing
a pretty direct wish, that if he would not
abandon it, he might meet with the de-
served fate of a rebel. The Aide de
Camp immediately returned him an answer
in defence of his conduct, by no means at-
tempting to shake the opposite principle of
his brother, but full of expressions of kind-
ness and affection; this letter he dated,—
"From the spot where Wolfe lost his life in
fighting the cause of England, in *Friend-
ship with America*." This letter had
scarcely reached the officer at New-York,
before it was followed by the news of his
brother's death; the effect was instantane-
ous, he quitted the English service, and
entered into that of America."

(To be continued.)

Such is the progress Temperance is mak-
ing in Cork, that the revenue in that city
on Whiskey has decreased in one month
£10,000. The distillers are talking of
shutting up shop.