

**THE MONTGOMERY  
SIEGE; THE EARLIEST  
BEGINNINGS OF CANADA**

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The Montgomery siege; The earliest beginnings of Canada by J. M. Harper

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**J. M. HARPER**

**THE MONTGOMERY  
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St. PAUL'S, NEW YORK.

# THE MONTGOMERY SIEGE

BY

J. M. HARPER,

The Author of "Our Jeames."

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DEDICATED

TO

SIR JAMES M. LEMOINE, D.C.L.,

SPENCER GRANGE, QUEBEC.

### PREFATORY NOTE.

This is the third of the series of the historical *brochures* which the writer is preparing for Canadian readers and those who visit us. The success which has attended the others, it is to be hoped, will be graciously extended to this one also. The visitor will find its pages a ready guidance while learning the topography of the ancient capital, a little bit at a time; and the young Canadian may not regret the labour required to commit to memory the verses that are meant to embody one of the most exciting chapters in the history of our colonial development and broadening loyalty.





### DESCRIPTIVE NOTES.

It is a far cry, as a Scotsman would say, from the seething crowds of Broadway, where old St. Paul's has weathered the changes of a century or so, to the silent crevices of Cape Diamond, which overlooks the spacious harbour of Quebec. The rear of the sacred edifice, so well known to the citizens of New York, is adorned with a monument which tells us how the remains of General Richard Montgomery, who fell at Quebec, December 31st, 1775, were deposited under its base within the chancel window, in the year 1818; while on the scarred flank of the rock of Quebec, on its southern side, there is to be seen a well-worn inscription, also intimating that the said Richard Montgomery met his fate near the foot of the precipice on which the Citadel of the ancient capital of Canada is built. Those who would understand the plan of the siege of 1775, and the topography of the ground encompassed by Montgomery and Arnold, would do well to begin their investigations at the foot of Cote de Lamontagne, common-

ly called Mountain Hill,—*first*, by taking a drive eastward along Notre Dame and Champlain Streets as far as Wolfe's Cove, and thence upwards and across from St. Louis Road to the St. Foye Road as far as Holland House, at the head of what is known as Sandy Hill; and *second*, by taking a walk along Sault-au-Matelot and Sous-le-Cap Streets, ascending the successive inclines that lead to the site of Hope Gate, and then proceeding from the Battery to the foot of Palace Street. On the drive westward, the points of interest to be taken note of *en route* are: the Church of Notre Dame des Victoires; Mountain Hill and little Champlain street; the Champlain Market House; the buildings around the King's Wharf; the scene of the Landslide; the buildings on the Allans' Wharf; the Ruisseau St. Denis at Wolfe's Cove; and the *plaisirs* of Wolfesfield and Holland Farm. Attention is given to these places seriatim in another part of this work. The same is done for the points of interest in the direction to be taken eastward by the visitor; these being the buildings in the neighbourhood of the Quebec Bank; "the Rock of Dog Lane"; the Battery; the Ramparts; the Hotel Dieu; and the building now known as Boswell's Brewery, occupying as it does, the site of the Intendant's Palace. The changes which have taken place in the "lay of the streets" since 1775 are best understood by locating with some care the Cul-de-Sac of Champlain's time, the little

bay which has long been filled in, and which forms the present site of the Champlain Market Place. This inlet, wherein small craft used to discharge their cargoes or were moored during the winter months, extended inwards as far as the line of Little Champlain Street, and was bounded on the east by the houses of Sous-le-Fort Street, and on the west by the King's Wharf. At the foot of Sous-le-Fort Street, where stood Champlain's Habitation, there was an open space, in 1775,—the site of the Royal Battery of the French regime; and at its head there was the old stairway-link between Cote de Lamontagne and Little Champlain Street. Champlain Street proper had its origin at the open waters of the Cul-de-Sac and ran along the river front, as a carriage way, as far as Près-de-Ville, which is described as being on the further side of the King's Wharf past the old King's Forges. There can be no doubt therefore that the memorial sign-board attached to the side of the crevice, leading from the enclosure of the Allan's Wharf to the Citadel, indicates the exact site of the barricade attacked by Montgomery. Beyond Près-de-Ville there extended a footpath round Cape Diamond, but this was hardly to be distinguished from the shore-line, which was always passable in summer as far as Wolfe's Cove for people on foot. The course followed by Montgomery, therefore, after he had descended the steep of Wolfe's Cove on his way to Près-de-Ville, was beset with the winter difficulties to be