

**JOURNAL OF CHARLES  
CARROLL OF  
CARROLTON: DURING HIS  
VISIT TO CANADA, IN 1776**

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Journal of Charles Carroll of Carrolton: During His Visit to Canada, in 1776 by Brantz Mayer

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**BRANTZ MAYER**

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JOURNAL  
OF  
Charles Carroll of Carrollton,  
DURING HIS  
Visit to Canada in 1776,

AS ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGRESS;

WITH A MEMOIR AND NOTES.

By BRANTZ MAYER.



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INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR  
UPON THE  
EXPEDITION TO CANADA  
IN  
1775—1776.

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CHAPTER I.

THAT long line of lakes and rivers which flow southeastwardly across our continent, and empty into the Atlantic through the gulf of Saint Lawrence, seems to form a natural barrier between two nations, marking their geographical limits if it did not also bound different races. And such, in fact, was really the case with a part of this extensive chain, until the peace of Paris in 1763, when Canada, after the victory of Wolfe, passed from the dominion of France to that of the British crown.

In March, 1766, the stamp act was repealed; but the English ministry, foiled in its first attempt

on the liberties of the American colonies, seemed determined to tease and worry them into rebellion. Taxation by duties was laid in 1767, and Maryland at once took ground against the imposition. Associations for "non importation" were speedily formed; but, after existing for a while, they were abandoned, and local discontents arose in our state that exasperated the people's feelings against Ministerial oppressions, until they were ripe for the revolt that ultimately broke out.<sup>1</sup>

Amongst the earliest demonstrations of a disposition on the part of the colonists to resort to violence, was the attack upon the newly ceded province of Canada.

The expedition that was sent to the north was deemed, by some persons, of questionable policy, and not a few of our people thought it entirely subversive of the principles upon which we grounded our resistance. It might naturally, they alleged, be regarded as a *war of conquest*, and, as such, was entirely at variance with the spirit of our discontent.

Such, however, was not a just view of the case. The boundary of the lakes to which we have alluded, formed, in reality, no boundary to British rule, for the sway of the Anglo-Saxon race was now fully established over the whole of the north-

<sup>1</sup> See McMahon's History of Maryland, vol. i, p. 380.

ern part of the continent. It was obviously proper, therefore, to detract, if possible, from the power of our assailants to harm us on the great watery highway of the lakes and rivers, or to present such an united force of colonial and provincial inhabitants as might counterbalance, in a great measure, the pertinacious loyalists who were disposed to discountenance our appeals for justice. For it will be remembered, that before the declaration of our national independence, the warfare was neither against the throne nor the laws of England, but against a reckless and oppressive ministry.<sup>1</sup>

In taking advantage, therefore, of this general desire to enlist the whole of the British subjects in America in the preservation of their privileges, efforts were justly and fairly made to obtain possession of the keys of the lakes and of the St. Lawrence at Quebec and Montreal.

As Sir Guy Carleton had manifested a strong disposition to sustain the ministry against the people, it was hoped that his efforts would thus be neutralized, and an unbroken front of firm and resisting freemen presented to the cabinet and parliament.

Canada was a province whose citizens had not yet coalesced with the English. In the debate on

<sup>1</sup> See Col. Reed's letter to Washington, and Washington's reply.—*Washington's Writings*, vol. iii, p. 347.