

From the time the flag of Great Britain was raised at Jamestown, in 1607, and that of France had been unfurled from the heights of Quebec the following year, for a century and a half, the mighty struggle had been going on between these two great nations for the dominion of a continent. The combatants were worthy, and the prize well worth the combat. That contest was determined by the victory of WOLFE, upon the plains of Abraham, on the 17th day of September, 1759; and by the treaty of Paris, of 1763, France ceded to Great Britain her American dominions from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Mississippi.

Previous to this period some of the English colonies had laid claims, and sometimes conflicting claims, to portions of the territory of which we speak, but they had in fact exercised no jurisdiction over it. The whole territory was in the occupation of France, and in her grand design of hemming in the English colonies and connecting Canada with Louisiana, she had dotted it with trading posts, missionary stations, settlements and forts.

THE NORTH-WEST IN 1763.

To understand this period of history, it is *essential* that we obtain a clear idea of the settlements and forts existing at the time of this conquest, their locality, strength and character.

Detroit was founded in 1701, and a fort, called Ponchertrain, erected upon the high bank of the river. This had long since gone to decay. The town proper occupied only about three acres, and was enclosed by pickets, variously stated to be from fifteen to twenty-five feet high, and pierced by four gates defended by block houses and guns. There were, within the pickets, from 80 to 100 dwellings, all of logs, except the house of the Governor or Commandant, and the enclosure contained a population of about six hundred. The settlement extended from the fort up and down the river on both sides about eight miles, and when Major ROGERS took possession for the British Government, in November, 1760, he estimated the entire population of town and settlement, at about 2,500, of which number 500 were capable of bearing arms. They were all French. Their farms were all narrow and deep, with a frontage on the river, so that the houses were near together. They were kept neatly whitewash-

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