

NOTES ON THE ARMIES

THE FRENCH ARMY.

The French army consisted of five different kinds of troops, and Montcalm, technically, commanded only the regulars from France, all the rest being under the Governor, who also was Montcalm's executive superior whenever he chose so to act.

THE FRENCH REGULARS FROM FRANCE: the regiments of *Royal Roussillon*, *La Sarre*, *Languedoc*, *Béarn*, *Guienne* and *la Reine*.—Under the old régime each French regiment bore the name of the prince or nobleman who practically owned it, or of the Province from which it was recruited. The officers were of much the same class as their British rivals. Neither French nor British were nearly so professional as those in the Prussian service. But both armies contained many more accomplished soldiers than is generally supposed.

The *Royal Roussillon* fought with valour in the first Battle of the Plains, lost a third of its men and two-thirds of its officers. In the second battle it had a duel with the Irish of the 35th, and was foremost in the charge which won the day. *La Sarre* had seen a great deal of arduous American service already and had greatly distinguished itself at Ticonderoga in 1758, when Montcalm beat Abercrombie, though outnumbered four to one. *Languedoc* suffered the loss of four companies, who were captured at sea on their way out in 1755. The drafts sent to complete the establishment were a very poor lot, and the regiment became the worst disciplined in Canada. Twenty serious courts-martials were held in the year preceding the first Battle of the Plains, besides innumerable minor offences. *Béarn* was one of the oldest and most distinguished corps in the whole French army and dated back to the 16th century. It had landed in Quebec in June, 1755, with *Guienne* and four companies of *Languedoc*, and, like them, had been on active service ever since. Its colonel was the steadfast Dalquier, who crowned his Canadian career by his splendid leadership in the second Battle of the Plains. The regiment of *Guienne*, sent by Montcalm to guard the Heights a week before the battle, and ordered to watch Wolfe's Cove the day before, was counter-ordered by the Governor Vaudreuil on each occasion. Its outposts were the first to come into contact with Wolfe, and it fought with the utmost gallantry in both battles.

The Canadian Regulars were officially part of the *troupes de la Marine*. They were not marines in the British sense at all, and had no connection with the navy, but were under the Home Government administration of the Department of Marine. They were mostly recruited in Canada, and took the colonial side against the French regulars whenever there was any friction in the ranks.

Canadian Militia was composed of every able-bodied man in the country. Captains of militia were men of great local importance; they represented the State on most local occasions. As raiders and skirmishers the *Milice* excelled. They had three essentials of all armies—the ability to rough it, march and shoot. They endured great hardships in the French cause, made a most gallant stand to cover the retreat after the first battle, and did some dashing work at the second.

The Indians were uncertain allies and tried the patience of Montcalm to the last degree. They can hardly be blamed for espousing the cause of whichever side seemed the less objectionable to them, for the time being, as all the whites persistently drove them from their haunts and changed the whole face of their country in a way abhorrent to their every feeling.

The French Navy.—The French marines did duty on shore as gun crews at Quebec. The vessels during the siege were anchored in the Richelieu. The only real encounter between the French and English in the St. Lawrence was when Vauquelin tried to head off the British vanguard in 1760. The gallant officer fought his ship bravely, and when his last shot had been fired refused to strike his flag.

THE BRITISH ARMY AND FLEET.

Wolfe's army was just under 5,000 strong at the Battle of the Plains. It was composed of:—

1. The 15th, then known as "Amherst's" Regiment, and now as the East Yorksires. To the present day its uniform is distinguished by the line of black mourning braid originally adopted in memory of Wolfe;
2. The 28th, then "Bragg's," now 1st Gloucesters. Wolfe took post on the right of this regiment;