

Ramezay further asked that "The inhabitants shall not be called to account for having borne arms in defence of the town; that the effects of the absent officials and of the inhabitants shall not be touched, that they shall not be removed nor forced to leave their houses until a definitive treaty between His most Christian Majesty and His Britannic Majesty have settled their estates; that the sick and wounded shall be cared for and the chaplains and physicians protected; that soldiers be placed as safe-guards over the churches, the convents and the principal residences; that the artillery and ammunition shall be given up in good faith": all of which was conceded by the British Generals in the very words in which the request was made. There was no bargaining for better terms, no suspicion cast upon the good faith of Ramezay, by whom they were offered, and no qualifying acceptance of them by the other side. The British apparently recognized that in taking over the strongest fortress in America the goodwill of the people who defended it was quite as valuable as the fortress itself, and that in the moment of victory they could afford to accept an honourable surrender without any humiliating conditions.

Besides asking protection for the property and the citizens of Quebec, Ramezay asked that, "The exercise of the Catholic Apostolic and Roman religion should be preserved, that safe-guards should be given to the houses of the clergy, to the monasteries and convents, especially to His Lordship, the Bishop of Quebec, who desires to exercise freely and with the decency which his standing and the sacred mysteries of his religion require, his episcopal authority in the town of Quebec until the possession of Canada has been decided by treaty." Here, as in other cases, the response was cordial and the request granted "until the possession of Canada shall have been decided between their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties."

And now the last act in the long drama of French occupation and discovery and exploration is about to close. Ramezay, with his military staff, and bearing a flag of truce, marches from the citadel to the fateful plains where the British forces are encamped. The terms of capitulation which he proposed are read over one by one in the presence of the British officers in command (Oh, why has cruel fate prevented General James Wolfe from being present?) and attested in the following words: "The present treaty (not capitulation) has been made and executed in duplicate between us at the camp before Quebec this 18th day of September, 1759. Signed: Chas. Saunders, George Townsend, De Ramezay." And with these