

sparkling eyes, speaking countenance, and significant manners of the young aspirant, recommended him highly to the superior officers, and at the age of fifteen he received his first commission. Having distinguished himself on several occasions, by his modest, prudent, and calm conduct, as well as by his valor, and constant attention to duty, he was in 1741 appointed General Legonier's aide-de-camp. In this high capacity he continued to serve in the German fields, and thus was present at the battles of Duttlingen, Fontenoy, and Rocoux. He was at the side of the Duke of Cumberland, as aide-de-camp, in the battle of Lauffeldt. On that remarkable day, young officer Amherst noticed and appreciated the celebrated James Wolfe, whose enthusiastic devotion and spirited bravery on the same field, drew forth the thanks of the Duke of Cumberland.

No sooner had Pitt established himself in office, than he revived the plan of an expedition against the French colonies in America. This statesman had discovered in Colonel Amherst sound sense, steady courage, and an active genius. He therefore recalled him from Germany, and setting aside military forms, promoted him to the rank of Major-General, and gave him the command of the troops sent against Louisbourg, (Cape Breton.) Hon. Edward Boscawen was chosen admiral of the fleet. Equipments were made with great zeal, and on February 19, 1758, the armament sailed from Portsmouth, for Halifax. General Amherst's army, which was almost exclusively British regulars, was put in motion, being divided into three brigades, under the Brigadier Generals, Whitmore, Laurence, and Wolfe. On the 2nd of June, the armament arrived off Cape Breton. The troops were landed near *Fresh Water Cove*, (Cormoran Creek,) four miles from the town. In a few days the British triumphed over every obstacle, and Amherst entered the city July 26th, and took possession of the whole island of Cape Breton. Many illustrious persons were present at this victorious scene: among whom were James Wolfe, the noble hero, who so gloriously fell on the plains of Abraham, and whose daring skill even then excited great admiration; James Murray, the first British Governor of Quebec; Commodore Durrell, the young Earl of Dundonald, who commanded the grenadiers of the 12th Regiment; and the renowned Captain Cooke, then serving as petty officer on board