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FOR "THE REVIEW."

THE FORT OF CHAMBLAY.

FROM THE FRENCH OF BENJAMIN SUITE BY MARY A. M'IVER.

The Fort of Chamblay is the last ruin of the French fortifications remaining in Lower Canada which has not been restored by the English. This Fort, constructed of stone 1717, was burnt by the Americans in 1775, and has since that time remained as it is now: four high and strong walls, still firm, I believe, situated at the foot of the Chamblay Rapids.

Old fort, remain thus till the end,
Brave still the wildness of the blast,
Sole vestige of an age long past,
With all-destroying Time contend.
The battle-smoke doth yet surround
Those ancient ramparts—here they fell
Who fought beneath their banners well.
This is their fitting burial ground.

Gather the scattered blossoms strown
Like stars beneath the ruined wall:
My heart knows well the worth of all
Those things which here appear so lone

Ains, that cold forgetfulness
Should thus surround this ancient place:
Where now is the heroic race
Its brave defenders in distress?
Beside the torrent covered o'er
With foam, which murmurs forth its song.
I am transported, borne along
By memories of what is no more.

Gather the scattered blossoms, &c.
What time the haughty Iroquois,
By sanguinary ardor led,
Seized on the bow and hatchet dread,
And up the river took their way,
Thy walls beheld by these stern men
Caused them a sudden awe to know.
And our ancestors' ancient foe
Trembled at thy grand aspect then.

Gather the scattered blossoms, &c.
Witness of many combats dread
Which made of yore our proudest boast,
Thou bringest back to me a host
Of memories of the gallant dead.
Ah, glorious cradle of our race,
For those from whom our lives begun,
We love thee, and each reverent son
Does homage to their resting place.

Gather the scattered blossoms, &c.
Here were the sacred germs first sown,
From whence upspring our destiny,
And such shall ever honored be
Though bearing marks of years long flown.
O! may our fathers' ardent faith,
Their courage in each dangerous way,
In peace, in peril or in fray,
Protect us so that none may scathe.

Gather the scattered blossoms, &c.

And when upon the horizon's brow
The tempest-winds upbuild a wall,
As sheaves which ere the harvest fall,
Your foreheads, O ye people, bow;
Then let high thoughts your spirits move:
Think of those ancient days sublime,
And how our land in that far time
Shared all our undivided love.

Gather the scattered blossoms strown
Like stars beneath the ruined wall,
My heart knows well the worth of all
Those things which here appear so lone
Ottawa, May 1868.

[Written expressly for "The Review"
THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.]

NUMBER XI.

From the summit of the promontory, the land slopes away towards the valley of the St. Charles, and rises again towards the Falls of Montmorenci about eight or nine miles lower down the main river. The plan of defence adopted by the French was best adapted to the peculiar topography of the country—he closed the mouth of the St. Charles with a heavy boom, defended in front by barges armed with artillery, and in the rear he sunk three large vessels in the river, on which a regular platform was laid, mounted with a battery of his heaviest artillery. Further up the stream a bridge of boats connected the ends of the Charlesburg and Beauport roads, and afforded means of communication between the city and the right and left of the French forces. Each end of this bridge was defended by a *teite du pont*.

As a defensive work the citadel of Quebec and the *enclave* of the town was contemptible, and batteries were erected on the quays of the lower town; the streets entrenched and defended by artillery. But Montcalm well knew that if once a landing was effected above or below the city, and the covering army defeated, no opposition could be made to the conqueror's possession thereof. Therefore the valley of the St. Charles and north shore of the river to Montmorenci were the really weak parts of the position. The heights above the city, if vigilantly guarded, could be made inaccessible with a small force. With 13,000 men he entrenched himself along the Beauport road, his right resting on the St. Charles, and his left on a

recloubt within a short distance of the Montmorenci, the centre of the line near the embouchure of the Beauport stream, being covered by a floating battery of 12 guns. If those lines could be maintained the only alternative an assaulting force could have, must be by proceeding up the river, running the gauntlet of the fire of the city batteries, and landing at or above Cape Rouge, march down either the Charlesburg or Burg Royal road, to the base of the wall of the French citadel, which in this case would be the tedious and dangerous movement, the ground was covered with woods in a great measure inaccessible to an army, and retreat would be impossible in the event of a repulse. Montreal's own position was all but impregnable, his right connected with the city by an approachable battery, his left entrenched on rocky heights, which could not be forced, while the centre was defended by a boom of barges and batteries perfectly impassable. As far as the plan of defence was concerned it displayed consummate skill, and as the event proved the line had not a point in it penetrable by direct attack.

The Government archives and garrison stores were removed to Trois Rivieres, the army magazines established at Montreal, only one month's provisions were retained at Quebec and such part of the flotilla as had anticipated Durell's occupation of the St. Lawrence were moved up to an anchorage above Cape Rouge. Wolfe's first act was to address a manifesto to the inhabitants setting forth the justice of the cause of quarrel on the British side, declaring the war was not urged against priests, peasants or women, and offered to protect them in case they observed strict neutrality; that, in consequence of the vast force brought against them, all exertion of their valor was useless and would only expose them to reprisals, and wound up by hoping the world would do him justice if he were obliged by the people to resort to violent measures. It is stated on good authority that this declaration had no effect which is very probable. On the 28th June a heavy gale on the river caused some damage to the shipping, several of them dragged their anchors and jostled each other; to add to the confusion