

OUR TABLE.

HAWKINS' PLAN, &c. OF THE BATTLE OF QUEBEC.

THE Battle of the Plains, which gave to the Crown of Britain the country we now inhabit, was one of those startling achievements which have few parallels in the history of the world. The daring courage which prompted the young commander of a gallant band, to seek a foe strong in numbers and renowned in arms, in the heart of an almost impregnable fortress, and where retreat was impossible, has been a theme of wonder for nearly a century, and the remembrance of it is as fresh as if it were but yesterday the battle had been fought.

But, not only as a military achievement has this event claimed the admiration of the world. In its gigantic consequences it possesses a still greater interest to the people of Britain, and of America—especially to the people of Canada, in whose history it forms an epoch from which to date their first effective steps in civilization, enterprise, freedom and industry. It inspired the Colony with new life—gave it a spur which is daily and hourly felt, and changed what was once a wilderness into a land teeming with all that is requisite to comfort, happiness and wealth.

Of this battle an accurate picture has been produced, the plan of which is described clearly by the author, and his description we avail ourselves of, for the information of our readers. "The topographical part," he says, "has been carefully compiled from original surveys. The advance of the English forces under the command of General James Wolfe; their field-works at the Island of Orleans; the falls of Montmorency, and at Point Levi; the positions of the co-operating squadrons, under the command of Vice Admiral Saunders, covering the landing of the British troops; the intrenchments and line of battle of the French army, under the command of their distinguished leader, General Montcalm; the line of redoubts, batteries, and other defences, extending nearly nine miles, have been laid down with the greatest care and accuracy; the author, during a residence in Canada of twenty-five years, having devoted almost his entire attention to the investigation of these points, with a view of obtaining complete and perfect information. The drawing is embellished with an exquisite miniature copy of West's celebrated painting, 'The Death of Wolfe on the Field of Battle,' and is also enriched with a spirited view of the troops in the act of ascending the lofty precipices to gain the heights of Abraham. The vignette represents Britannia (supported by the lion) pointing out to the victorious troops the citadel of Cape Diamond; her shield is inscribed with Wolfe's name, on the rays of which are emblazoned the gallant regiments which shared the glories of the day, namely—the 15th, 22d, 28th, 35th, 40th, 43d, 45th, 47th, 48th, 58th, 60th, and 78th."

The execution of the design, as far as the art of the engraver is concerned, is equal to, and worthy of the genius, perseverance and care evinced by the author, in furnishing the materials for the picture. It is in the best style of English art, and has elicited the admiration and applause of thousands who have examined it.

We may here submit the concluding paragraphs of a notice of the plan in the *London Literary Gazette*, which will be perused with pleasure by our readers generally. The anecdote related of General Wolfe and Admiral Saunders, is characteristic of the heroes:—

These embellishments are, indeed, very spirited, and of a much higher order of art than is bestowed upon works of the same description. The production is dedicated to the united services of the British empire, and has had immense success in our American provinces, which will doubtless extend throughout our home population as soon as its great merits become known. The existing condition of the Canadas, so lately saved from revolution by the devoted loyalty and intrepidity of its gallant people, renders the publication at this period still more interesting; and we confess that we cannot look upon these localities without joining the present and the past, and having our minds filled at the same moment with the achievements of 1759 and 1838. Long may the same feelings be cherished, and thus a rising nation continue to be secured and attached to the British crown.

We have alluded to Admiral Saunders, and it may not be inappropriate here to record an anecdote honourable to him and to the happy and fortunate union of the two services. We received it from a gentleman who lived to be about one hundred years of age, and, we believe, drew his pension as a retired purser of the navy for some sixty years.

On the day previous to the battle, he was bathing in a little creek on shore, when the Admiral's boat, and another conveying General Wolfe, pulled in suddenly upon him. Taken by surprise, and, we presume, being absent without leave, our purser hastily gathered up his clothes, and ran to a hut near at