

40 THE GREATEST EVENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY

2. "*Colonial prowess a-running to the lees.*" The great main story of early Canadian history has to do with the French and English rivalries in America. At the time of Wolfe's invasion there were about seventy thousand Frenchmen in America to a million of Englishmen; and misgivings had arisen in the minds of the people of Great Britain, that neither the Duke of Newcastle, as premier, nor his American generals, were ever likely to secure the ascendancy of the New England colonies in the struggle between them and their French rivals north of them. These generals—Loudon, Webb, and Abercrombie—have been set down by Sir Gilbert Parker as vain and obtuse martinets, who fumbled their opportunities, mismanaged their campaigns, and learned no lessons from their failures. And, be this as it may, Montcalm had certainly worked wonders in the west against their movements by seizing Fort Frontenac, reducing Oswego, and capturing Fort William Henry, until, at last, the indignation in England became such that Newcastle had to resign in favour of William Pitt, who made no delay in placing the military operations in North America in the hands of such men as Amherst, Wolfe and Howe.

3. "*Our garlanding of peace.*" When the inauguration of a Battlefields Park for Quebec was first mooted, it was suggested that a "Monument of Peace" should be erected somewhere near the King's Bastion, which might be seen as a prominent historic landmark to those arriving up the St. Lawrence, much as is to be seen the Bartholdi "Statue to Liberty" by those sailing across the harbour of New York. The originator of the idea was Earl Grey, who took such a prominent part, with the Prince of Wales and Lord Roberts, in the Tercentennial celebrations of 1908.

4. "*With no bias to caress.*" Many are prone to make too much of a taken-for-granted racial antipathy between the French-speaking and English-speaking citizens of Canada. There are certainly no grounds for any such an antipathy, unless it be in the desire to aggrandize beyond the lines of political equity and civic privilege. As a part of the British Empire, Canada maintains the principle of "equal rights" for all her citizens.

5. "*I bring you a royal master's word.*" General Wolfe reached the Island of Orleans on June 27th, 1759, where he ordered his