

leagues, a few leagues from Quebec, without any accident whatever. Immediate possession was taken of this beautiful Island, which, as it extends to the bason of Quebec, was found an advantageous position for the attack of the town. When this was done the harbour and town appeared full to view, at once a tempting and discouraging sight. For no place seems possessed of greater benefits from nature; and none of which nature seems more to have consulted the defence.* The first design of Wolfe was to land at Quebec, and get a firm footing in the neighbourhood of the town, in order to lay siege to it. But he found the banks of the river so well intrenched, and so well defended by troops and redoubts, that his first endeavours were fruitless. Every attempt to land was attended with the loss of many lives, without being productive of any advantage. After persisting in these attempts for nearly six weeks, the design of the intrepid Wolfe became at once deeper and more particularly directed than it had previously been. The camp at Montmorenci was broke up, and the troops were conveyed to the south-east of the river, and encamped at Point Levi. The squadron under Admiral Holmes, made movements up the river for several days successively, in order to draw the enemies attention as far from the town as possible. This succeeded in some measure; for though it could not persuade the Marquis de Montcalm, the Governor, to quit his post, it induced him to detach a body of 1500 men to watch their motions. When General Wolfe saw that matters were ripe for action, he ordered the ships under Admiral Saunders, to make a feint, as if they proposed to attack the French in their entrenchments on the Beauport shore below the town. This disposition being made, the general embarked his forces about one in the morning, and with Admiral Holmes's division went three leagues further up the river, than the intended place of landing, in order to amuse the enemy and conceal his real design. He then put them into boats, and fell down silently with the tide, unobserved by the French centinels posted along the shore. The rapidity of the current carried these boats a little below the intended place of attack. The ships followed them, and arrived just at the time which had been concerted to cover their landing. As the troops could not land at the spot proposed when they were put on shore, a hill appeared before them, extremely high and steep in its ascent; a little path winded up this ascent, so narrow that two could not go abreast. Even this path was entrenched, and a Captain's guard defended it. These difficulties did not abate the hopes of the general, or the ardour of the troops. The light infantry, under Colonel Howe, laying hold of stumps and boughs of trees, pulled themselves up, dislodged the guards, and cleared the path; and then all the troops surmounting every difficulty, gained the top of the hill, and, as fast as they ascended, formed themselves so that they were all in order of battle at day-break. This was on the 13th of September. Montcalm when he heard that the English had ascend-

* Quebec can boast of a fresh-water harbour, capable of containing an hundred men of war of the line, at one hundred and twenty leagues distant from the sea. The St. Lawrence, up to the Isle of Orleans, is no where less than from four to five leagues broad; but above that Isle it narrows, so that before Quebec it is not a mile over. Hence this place got the name of QUEBEC or QUEBEC, which, in the Algonquin tongue, signifies a Strait.