

HISTORICAL.

CHAPTER I.

CONQUEST OF CANADA—TREATY OF PARIS—THE GREATER NOVA SCOTIA
—ISLE OF ST. JEAN—CAPE BRETON.

The conquest of Canada which had been prefigured by Wolfe's victory at Quebec in September 1759, was consummated a year later, when Montreal, where Vaudrueil, the Governor General made his last stand, was compelled to capitulate to Amherst and other generals converging on it from points already seized by British arms. So far as operations in America were concerned, Vaudrueil's surrender brought the Seven Years War to an end three years before it had completely run its course in Europe.

Eventually preliminary articles of a general pacification were agreed on at Fontainebleau on November 2, 1762. Royal proclamations enjoining an immediate cessation of hostilities followed. On February 10, 1763, the definitive Treaty of Paris was signed.

Pitt, under whose masterly direction the chief successes of the war had been achieved, was no longer in office to dictate the terms of settlement. All he could do was to protest against concessions which he deemed discreditable to a nation which had emerged triumphant from the struggle,—the surrender of Havanna and the continuance to France of the provisions of the Treaty of Utrecht, guaranteeing her valuable rights and privileges in the waters and on the coasts of Newfoundland, with St. Pierre and Miquelon thrown in as a free gift.

But these were but small matters. Pitt's policy had triumphed. He had done for England, and particularly for the cause of England in North America, what even a temporising and selfish man like Bute could not undo. North America had been won. Instead of the English colonies being squeezed, as de la Galissonniere had planned, between the Alleghanies and the sea, and thus compressed almost into