

through Lake Champlain opened the way to Montreal, and by the midsummer of 1759 Quebec alone remained, the only important fortress in the possession of the French.

It is not necessary for my purpose to enter into the details of the final struggle begun by Wolfe in the month of June and terminated by his victory and death on the 13th of September following. Nor need I attempt to describe the courage and heroism of Montcalm, whose fate in the defence of the possessions of the King of France was equally tragic. The end of the French régime had come and the partnership to which I referred in the opening of my remarks was about to begin.

On the defeat of Montcalm, Vaudrenil, the Governor, with the greater portion of the army encamped outside Quebec retreated about 12 miles distant, leaving De Ramezay with a small force in command within the city walls. De Ramezay soon found that the defence of the city was hopeless and could only result in loss of life and the destruction of property. But his honour as a soldier was involved and the citizens looked to him for safety and protection. Accordingly he drew up certain articles of surrender which he submitted to Generals Saunders and Townshend, who had succeeded to the command on the death of General Wolfe. In the first of these he claimed the "honours of war" for his little garrison of soldiers and sailors. The response was most cordial as well as magnanimous. "The garrison of the town, composed of land forces, marines and sailors, shall march out with their arms and haggage, drums beating, matches lighted, with two pieces of French cannon and twelve rounds for each piece and shall be embarked as conveniently as possible to be sent to the first port in France." What could be more generous? Quebec had fallen to be sure, but the brave men who defended her were permitted to march out of the city in all the "pomp and panoply of war" without any reflection upon their honour or their courage as soldiers of France.

Ramezay's next demand was that "the inhabitants be preserved in the possession of their houses, goods, effects and privileges." This, too, was granted on the one condition of their laying down their arms. What a contrast between the treatment accorded to the inhabitants of Quebec and that usually accorded the surrender of a fortress on the continent of Europe. Here there was no sacking of houses, no pillage or plunder of private property, but everyone was as secure in his possessions, goods, effects and privileges under the British flag as he was before Wolfe had mustered his forces on the Plains of Abraham.