

since we have been three months in bivouac without knowing when or how it will finish, and if the winter with its cold will bring us a little rest.

(The rest of the letters consist of polite messages to friends, &c.)*

Investigators continue to apply for information both personally and by letter. The system which has been adopted of cataloguing and indexing enables the information asked for to be at once supplied, if it is contained in the Archives, or if not there is no delay in ascertaining that fact. A glance at the list of books, &c., presented will in some slight degree show the extent of the interest taken in the progress of the work, but by no means exhibits its full measure.

After the capture of Louisbourg at the end of July, 1758, Wolfe was employed to harass and destroy the French settlements in the lower St. Lawrence. This uncongenial task occupied part of the following months and in November he was back with his regiment at Salisbury. He was shortly afterwards selected by Pitt to command the expedition against Quebec. This brief summary may serve to show how difficult it is to comprehend the cause of the letter from Wolfe, of which a copy follows, no reference being made to it in any of his biographies, so far as can be ascertained by close examination. It is possible, however, that Mr. Bradley, who had access to all the papers left by Wolfe, of which he made such excellent use in his short life of him, may be able to throw some light on the subject. In Parkman's "Montcalm and Wolfe" an extract from the letter is given in a note at page 194 of the second volume, but no notice is taken of it in the text. By inserting the name of Lawrence in a parenthesis, in connection with the objection made by Wolfe to being under the orders of an officer put over his head a few months before, Parkman evidently means to suggest that Lawrence was the person objected to, which is possible, although Lawrence had been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia by Order in Council of the 6th August, 1754, and assumed the duties of office in October of that year, when the order reached him, having been acting Lieutenant Governor from the end of 1753. The letter, however, cannot be explained by any documents that are so far accessible; the only allusion to any order to remain on this side of the Atlantic is contained in a letter written by Wolfe to his friend, Lieutenant Colonel Rickson, dated on the 1st of December, 1758, part, at least, of which must have been written previous to that date, that is, in the month of November. In this letter he says: "When I went from hence (the letter is dated at Salisbury) Lord Ligonier told me I was to return at the end of the campaign, but I have learned since I came home, that an order is gone to keep me there." What shows positively that

Au camp de Lorette, ce 22 septembre 1859.

*Je profite du départ de la garnison de Québec pour vous donner de mes nouvelles, ma chère maman. M. de Joannes, aide major du régiment de Languedoc, qui vous remettra cette lettre et que je recommande à vos bontés, a fait une partie de la campagne chargé du détail du corps que je commandais. Ainsi vous saurez par lui tout ce que je ne puis vous écrire par cette voye. La plus malheureuse affaire nous a ravi notre général. M. de Joannes y était et vous en rendra compte. J'en suis pénétré de douleur et chaque instant l'augmente. J'ai cru devoir suivre le sort de cette colonie; la mémoire de mon général et les circonstances critiques dans lesquelles sa mort laisse ce pays sont un lien qui m'y attache. Je puis dire avoir servi avec succès. J'ai deux mois défendu la communication contre un escadre et des forces bien supérieures à ce que j'avois; avec 350 hommes j'en ai, deux fois en un même jour repoussé 1,500 et leur en ai tué ou blessé 300. Après l'affaire du 13 septembre j'ai couvert la retraite de notre armée et quand Québec a capitulé je n'en étais qu'à trois quarts de lieue et je ne jettois dedans la nuit suivante avec un corps d'élite qui l'eut pu sauver. Maintenant on m'a confié une réserve de 1,200 hommes et je continue une campagne pénible puisque nous y avons été 3 mois au bivouac, sans savoir quand, comment elle finira et si l'hiver, avec les glaces, nous amenera quelque repos.

(Le reste de la lettre, ne renferme que des civilités pour des amis.)