

Notes on "The Repulse at Montmorency"

1. "*'Twas a world's conflagration.*" The Seven Years' War began in 1756, with the invasion of Saxony by Frederick the Great, the European allies against him being Austria, Russia, and France, with Great Britain as an ally in his favour. The challenge which Britain threw down to France in the same year was an outcome of the former's alliance with Prussia, and had for one of its main objects the upholding of the dominancy of British rule in the colonies of America—an object finally gained by the taking of Louisbourg in 1758, and the capture of Quebec in 1759. Meanwhile Britain shared largely in the general fighting in Europe, supporting at its own charge what was known as the British Hanoverian Army under the command of Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, whose skill as a commander was duly endorsed by the victories of Crefelt and Minden. Beyond this, Britain asserted her supremacy on the seas, by her successes in America and India, with the naval victories of Quiberon and Belleisle crowning her other achievements. In 1760, George III died, and the subsidies for carrying on the war in alliance with Frederick ceased. In 1762, the Czarina of Russia died, leaving the government of that country in the hands of Peter III, grandson of Peter the Great, who was personally a warm admirer of Frederick. Austria's resources for the moment were all but exhausted, and peace seemed to come of itself in 1763, under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. The chief provisions of that treaty included a re-arrangement of colonial possessions, Britain being awarded all of Canada and the territory east of the Mississippi, with the exception of Louisiana; and France having some of her property restored to her in the Indies and in Africa. The war in Canada was brought to an end on the 8th of September, 1760, when Vaudreuil was forced to make a formal surrender of the whole country to Generals Amherst and Murray, three years before the Treaty of Paris was signed.