

succeeded in getting his troops ashore in the face of a vigorous opposition from the French who were drawn up in force on the beach, with cannon and musketry. The French were driven into Louisburg, and the cannon they had used, numbering 26 pieces captured.

The French in this siege suffered from the same difficulty they experienced in the first siege, a lack of men to man all their fortifications properly. The Chevalier de Drucour was in command of the garrison and he seems to have held out as long as it was possible for him to do so. One of his first measures was the destruction and abandonment of the Royal or Grand battery, which has been described in the account of the first siege. He also ordered the destruction of the Light House battery leaving there only four spiked cannon. This was an unfortunate beginning for the Light House battery commanded the Island battery, while the Grand battery menaced the town and works of Louisburg. General Wolfe on the 12th June took possession of the Light House battery with 1,200 men and mounted guns upon it with which he proceeded to attack the Island battery, and on the 25th it was silenced. Batteries were erected in front of the West gate by means of which the French batteries in that quarter were brought to a ruinous condition. The French naval force at Louisburg at the time of the siege consisted of six ships of the line and five frigates. These vessels retired into the harbor and were utilized in the defence of the place. Only one of them, the frigate *Arethuse*, succeeded in escaping. Four of the

others, were sunk at the entrance of the harbor to prevent the English ships from coming in, four were destroyed by fire and two were captured. Thus the whole eleven were disposed of.

On the 26th July all the French batteries were in a ruinous condition and it was evident the place could not hold out much longer. The inhabitants of the place petitioned M. Drucour to surrender, and he complied with their request. Articles of capitulation were speedily agreed to and signed and on the 27th Louisburg was taken possession of by the British army. The surrender included the whole island of Cape Breton.

After the surrender to the British it was ordered that the fortress be destroyed. These orders were strictly carried out during the summer and autumn of the same year. The great fortress which for almost half a century had dominated the northern seas, and in which so many millions had been expended was totally destroyed. But the task of effecting this was long and difficult, and even at this day, one hundred and forty years after the order for its destruction went forth, the ruins of Louisburg shows how great it was in the days of its power. The traveller from a distant land can see here an illustration of the vanity of all earthly grandeur and the transient nature of human glory, for Louisburg, which once commanded the attention and admiration of all the people of this continent, has been almost forgotten in the whirl of time, and later events have eclipsed its fame. The heroism of the New Englanders is told on a monument erected by the Society of Colonial Wars.