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THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

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The Campaign of 1758, opened with great spirit and under far more favorable auspices. Pitt had succeeded Newcastle as Prime Minister of England, and immediately bent his energies to the task of infusing new life into all the departments of Government, in nothing was this more apparent than in the affairs of the army. Lord Loudon was superseded in March and allowed to return to the cultivation of cabbages on his paternal acres, the only employment for which he was fitted. Webb soon after followed him to England where his scalp was in no danger; Abercrombie succeeded to the command, thus showing the difficulty of securing the services of really efficient officers from a force so demoralised as the British army then was by Newcastle and his creatures. The vessel that brought Loudon's recall brought circular letters from the Ministry to the Colonial Governors, informing them that the British Cabinet were resolved to prosecute the war with renewed energy, and calling on them for as many men as they could raise according to population, while the Crown would furnish "arms, ammunition, tents, provisions and boats." At the same time, to obviate the grievances complained of viz: the evil effects of allowing a superiority of command to the officers of the regular army, all Provincial Colonels were to be made Brigadier Generals, and the Lieut. Colonels were to rank as Colonels. Those regulations and the determination displayed awakened the energy and zeal of the people of the Colonies so that 20,000 Provincial soldiers were in Albany ready to take the field early in May. Major Rogers who had been despatched to reconnoitre in the neighborhood of Ticonderoga with 170 men, fell in with a party of French 100 strong and 600 savages on the 10th of March, and, after a severe action, was obliged to retreat losing 5 officers and 100 rank and file killed and wounded; it is said the French lost 150 killed and nearly 200 wounded. With the sure footed judgment which guided all his actions Pitt de-

ecided that the plan of the campaign about to be undertaken should have as its objective point the reduction of the key of the enemy's position, and at once proposed to organize an expedition against Louisburg to be followed by the attempted reduction of Quebec. In the selection of an officer to command the land forces he sought for one whose caution was only equalled by the sagacity of his judgment, both tempered by a stubborn courage which made no enterprise too difficult nor no danger too great to be avoided in its execution and whose tenacity of purpose was such that he might be baffled but would eventually succeed in any enterprise he had undertaken. Such a man was Jeffrey Amherst, then a Colonel serving in Germany, who was recalled, promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed to command the land forces in an attack on Louisburg. The villainous system followed by Newcastle and his administration had filled the higher ranks of the army with a set of incapables, only qualified to bring disgrace on the profession and disaster on the country.

The fleet was not quite so unfortunate; luckily, to command there a man must be at least a good practical seaman; he may be a coward, but such rarely attain rank in the service, and if they do, have small opportunity for showing it; once in the presence of the enemy they must fight if ever so willing to avoid it, the rest of the officers and crew will take the matter in their own hands; therefore while an Admiral may be a fool and timid, like Holborn, the greater number are much more likely to be rash and willing to fight, like Boscawen, at all times and on all occasions. Amherst's command was to consist of the troops Loudon had idly paraded from New York to Halifax and thence to Louisburg, with an interval of cabbage culture between, thence to Halifax, back to New York, and thence to Albany in 1757. Early in the season they were concentrated at Halifax, impatiently awaiting the arrival of the General, while Boscawen in command of Holborn's fleet considerably reinforced was chafing at the delay. The General sailed from Portsmouth on 16th March, but it was the 28th of May before his vessel entered

Halifax harbour, to find the whole fleet and land forces under Boscawen coming out of the harbour on their way to Louisburg; without landing Amherst went on board the Admiral's ship where the command of the forces was at once delivered up to him. The fleet consisted of 22 ships of the line, 15 frigates and 3 other vessels, besides transports, carrying 9,900 effective troops with a sufficient train of artillery. On the 2nd of June the greater part of the fleet came to anchor in Gabarus bay in the Island of Cape Breton.

Louisburg, the object of this expedition, was founded in 1720, on a bay called English Haven on the south coast of the Island of Cape Breton; it was the intention of the French administration to make it an entrepot for the coast trade of British America and the inland traffic of Canada. At the same time as its fortifications were deemed to be impregnable, its use as a point of defence or offence was obvious; in fact it gave its occupiers uncontroled command of the St. Lawrence to the walls of Quebec, complete power of monopolising the whole fishing trade on the Banks of Newfoundland, and was a standing menace to the New England Provinces. The fortifications which had cost France £1,250,000 sterling, were not completed when in 1745 a militia force numbering 4000 men, raised and equipped by Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut, commanded by William Pepperel, a merchant of Boston, invested it on the 27th of April, assisted by a squadron under the command of Sir Peter Warren; and it surrendered by capitulation on 16th June. It had been restored to France at the peace of Aix la Chapelle, and was accepted as an equivalent for all the French successes in Europe; since that period the works had been strengthened and an efficient garrison maintained. From the prevalence of heavy gales the swell was so great that the troops could no be landed till the 8th, when that object was effected with some loss by a division of the troops under Brigadier General Wolfe at Connoquet Cove, about 2½ miles West of Louisburg. That garrison was commanded by the Chevalier de Drocourt, and consisted