

tric car. The words *opérateur* and *garde-moteur* have been employed, but it does not seem to me that they give a good translation of the English word.

Montreal,
Jan. 2, 1901.

P.



GENERAL WOLFE ASSASSINATED. (No. 91,, Vol. I, p. 193). In connection with this query, another account of the death of this British general, which has come to me second-handed but from creditable source, may be of interest to the reader if not already known. In Wolfe's army were two brothers named Smith, who just before the attack on Quebec received word of the fatal illness of their mother, and her earnest request to see at least one of them before she died. Thus the couple sought the general to obtain leave of absence for the elder long enough for him to perform his mission and return. This Wolfe refused. After a consultation between themselves the brothers decided that one should desert, returning as speedily as possible. The eldest accepted this hazardous undertaking, promising his brother to be back at the end of three days. His mother was dead when he reached his home, and the broken-hearted soldier started on his sorrowful return. He had been missed, and upon reaching the army was immediately ordered into the presence of the severe commander. Accused of his unpardonable misdemeanor and told that the fate of all deserters was

death at the hands of his comrades, the doomed man plead as his excuse that the request of a dying mother should stand above even that of duty to his country. This Wolfe fiercely denied, and, as a deeper act of punishment, ordered that the other brother should be one of the twelve to shoot the deserter. Calm and resigned the elder Smith was stationed at the death post and made to kneel. To see that his brother did not attempt to evade his duty an officer was told to watch him closely. If his weapon was one of the eleven to carry the deadly shot or the piece without a bullet that is commonly used with the others, so that no marksman may really know if his shot was fatal or not, deep down in his heart the younger Smith vowed that the heartless general should die at his hands at the first opportunity. That chance came on the battlefield of Quebec, and in after years, when an old man, with tears in his eyes, as he recounted the whole tragical affair, he candidly confessed that he fired at the back of Wolfe and carefully aimed to hit his heart.

I hope there are those who can throw more light on this subject. Was the account given by H. V. and printed in the *London Chronicle* of August 19. 1788, derived from the one I have given, or were there more than one who attempted such an act of vengeance? Let us hear from others.

Manchester, N. H.
Dec. 31, 1900. G. WALDO BROWNE.