

This remarkable success in landing without the least knowledge of the enemy, was in some measure owing to the following accident: two French deserters had been carried the evening before the embarkation on board the English fleet, and from them the general learned that the garrison of Quebec expected that night to receive a convoy of provisions, sent down the river in boats, from the detachment above, commanded by M. de Bougainville. The knowledge of this particular was of the utmost consequence, and tended to deceive the sentinels posted along shore to challenge boats and vessels, and give the alarm. The first boat that contained the English troops being questioned accordingly, a captain of Fraser's regiment, who had served in Holland, and was perfectly acquainted with the French language and customs, answered without hesitation to *Qui est*, which is their challenging word, *De la France*: nor was he at a loss to answer the second question, which was much more particular and difficult. When the sentinel demanded *A quel regiment?* to what regiment? the captain replied, *De la reine*, which he knew by heart to be one of those that composed the body commanded by Bougainville. The soldier took it for granted that this was the expected convoy, and saying *Passez*, allowed all the boats to proceed without farther question.

The troops were no sooner landed, than the boats were sent back for a second embarkation, which was under the direction of brigadier Townshend. In the mean time colonel Howe, with the light infantry and Highlanders, ascended the woody precipice with admirable courage and activity for the narrow path that flanted up the hill from the landing place had been broken up, and rendered impassable by cross-ditches: and in every other part the hill was so steep and dangerous, that the soldiers were obliged to pull themselves up by the roots and boughs of trees, growing on each side of the path. In their passage they dislodged a captain's guard, which defended a passage, by which alone the rest of the troops could reach the summit. After this the whole army mounted without molestation, and the general drew up the troops as fall as they arrived.

M. de Montcalm no sooner understood that the English had gained the heights of Abraham, than he determined to hazard a battle; and collecting his whole force without delay, marched towards the English.

Mean while the brave general Wolfe, perceiving that the French were crossing the river St. Charles, formed his own line; the right commanded by brigadier Monckton, and the left by brigadier Murray, while colonel Howe, who had just returned with his light infantry from taking a four-gun battery, was posted in the rear of the left. M. de Montcalm advancing in such a manner as shewed his intention was to flank the left of the English, brigadier Townshend was sent with the regiment of Americans to oppose him, presenting a double front to the enemy, and was afterwards reinforced by two battalions. The reserve consisted of one regiment, drawn up in eight sub-divisions, with large intervals. The enemy's right was composed of half the colony troops, and a body of Canadians and Indians: their center consisted of a column of two other regular battalions; and on the left were posted one battalion, and the remainder of the colony troops; the bushes and corn-fields in their front were lined with fifteen hundred of their best marksmen, who kept up an irregular galling fire, which proved fatal to several brave officers, who were singled out for destruction. This fire was indeed checked by the advanced posts of the British line, who piquetted with the enemy some hours before the battle began. Both armies were almost entirely destitute of artillery; the French having only two pieces, and the English no more than one, which the seamen had with great difficulty drawn up from the landing-place; but this single piece, being well served, galled their columns severely.

The enemy advanced to the charge with great order and vivacity, about nine in the evening, though their fire was both irregular and ineffectual. The British, on the contrary, reserved their shot till the French proceeded within forty yards of their line, when they poured in a terrible discharge, and continued their fire

with such spirit and deliberation, as could not fail of producing a very remarkable effect. The general himself stood in the warmest part of the attack, at the head of Brag's regiment and the Louthburgh grenadiers, conspicuous in the very front of the line, where he was aimed at by the enemy's marksmen, and at last received a shot in his wrist, which, however, did not oblige him to quit the field: wrapping a handkerchief about the wound, he continued to give his orders, without the least emotion; and boldly advanced at the head of the grenadiers, with their bayonets fixed, when another ball unfortunately pierced the breast of the young hero, who fell at the moment when victory was crowning all his labours with success; for at that instant every regiment of the British army seemed to exert itself for the honour of its own peculiar character. While the right pushed on with their bayonets, brigadier Murray advanced briskly with the troops under his command, and soon broke the enemy's center; when the Highlanders, supported by Anstruther's regiment, drawing their broad swords, fell in among them with irresistible impetuosity, driving them with great slaughter into the city, and the works they had raised at the bridge over the river St. Charles. The action was less violent on the left and the rear of the English. Colonel Howe having taken post with two companies, behind a small copse, frequently sallied out on the flanks of the enemy during the attack, and often drove them into heaps, while brigadier Townshend advanced platoons against their front: so that the right wing of the French was prevented from executing their first intention. The brigadier himself continued at the head of Amherst's regiment to support this disposition, and overcome a body of Indians posted opposite to the light infantry, waiting for an opportunity of falling upon the rear of the British army.

General Wolfe being slain, and Mr. Monckton dangerously wounded at the head of Laforce's regiment, where he distinguished himself with remarkable gallantry, the command devolved on brigadier Townshend, who hastened to the center; and finding the troops disordered in the pursuit, formed them again with all possible expedition. He had hardly performed this necessary part of his duty, when M. de Bougainville, at the head of two thousand fresh men, appeared in the rear of the English. He had begun his march from Cape Rouge as soon as he received intelligence that the British troops had gained the heights of Abraham; but did not reach the field of battle soon enough to have any share in the action; for this body no sooner approached the British rear, than Mr. Townshend ordered two battalions, with two pieces of artillery, to advance; but the French prevented an attack by retiring among woods and swamps, whither general Townshend, who had already obtained a complete victory, wisely declined pursuing them; he having a great number of French officers prisoners, and being in possession of a very advantageous situation. M. de Montcalm, the French general, was mortally wounded in the battle, and conveyed into Quebec; but before he died wrote a letter to general Townshend, recommending the prisoners to that generous humanity which distinguishes the British nation. His second in command was left wounded on the field, and being conveyed on board an English ship, expired the next day. About a thousand of the enemy were made prisoners, including a great number of officers; and about eight hundred were slain on the field of battle. Among the English army, it is said that no more than fifty men were killed in gaining this important victory, and about five hundred wounded; but the death of general Wolfe was a national loss universally lamented.

This victory was no sooner obtained than admiral Saunders, who had all along heartily assisted the land-forces, for the advantage of the service, sent up all the boats of the fleet with artillery and ammunition; and on the seventeenth sailed up with all the ships of war, in a disposition to attack the Lower Town, while the Upper should be assaulted by general Townshend. That gentleman had employed his whole time since the action in securing the camp with redoubts; in forming a military road for the cannon; in drawing up the artillery; pre-