

might at once subserve public good and private gain. With this view, the first attempt made was to obtain information on American affairs from a young lieutenant named Horatio Gatas, who had served in Nova Scotia, and who was afterwards well known as the fortunate general officer to whom the gay and witty but unfortunate General Burgoyne had to surrender at Saratoga. On this occasion he was too astute to propose any measure of which he could be made the scapegoat, and declined to act as he was desired, pleading ignorance and inexperience as an excuse. The soldier having refused to act, recourse was had to the "man of peace," and a Mr. Hanbury, a Quaker gentleman, whose connections gave him some knowledge of America, proposed that Virginia should be the basis of operations, and it was determined to entrust the conduct of the business to Horatio Sharpe, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland. This man was Lieutenant Colonel in the army, a grade which he received in 1754, but it was only local and confined to the West Indies; but the Duke of Newcastle and his coadjutors assured the King that he had served through the whole of the last war, and was well known to possess the good opinion of the Duke of Cumberland. "So good," replied the latter, "that if Sharpe had been consulted he would have refused." In fact, the man never served an hour. His appointment was, however, forwarded to him, but after a great deal of preliminary planning he abandoned the whole scheme as impossible. His instructions appear to have contemplated nothing beyond the capture of Fort du Quesne by a Provincial force. This failure was a severe blow to Newcastle, who endeavoured to cover his own mortification and his favourite's incapacity by saying that "if he was not remarkably able, he was at least a very honest man." The shrewd old king replied, "A little less honesty and a little more ability might, upon the present occasion, better serve our turn," and without delay sought the opinion and services of the Duke of Cumberland in the plan of campaign which would best subserve the interests of the Empire. The plan adopted did not alter the locality of the operations originally pointed out by Newcastle's Quaker adviser. It was intended to strike at once at Fort du Quesne on the Ohio, Niagara at the head of Lake Ontario, Crown Point at the head of Lake Champlain, and Beau-Sejour at the head of the Bay of Fundy. These movements, requiring simultaneous action on a line the extreme points of which were over 1200 miles apart, would necessarily be subject to many casualties, and therefore to General Braddock was intrusted the execution of the western portions of the operations, extending from du Quesne to Niagara,—the success of the whole depending on the capture of the first named fort.

On the 24th of September, 1754, Major General Braddock was appointed to the command of the expedition to Virginia, and Generalissimo of all His Majesty's troops on the North American continent. The forces for the expedition were to consist of the 44th Regiment, Colonel Sir Peter Halkot, and the 48th, Colonel Thos. Lunbar, each 500 strong, but it was intended they should be recruited in America to 700 men each. Two other regiments, of 1000 men each, to be commanded respectively by Sir William Pepperell and William Shirley, Esq., Governor of Massachusetts Bay, were to be raised at the King's cost in America. In addition to these forces, which would at the most make up 3,500 men, the King's independent companies in America were to be under Braddock's command, and the aid of

the colonial militia, with the services of as many Indians as could be enlisted, would, it was hoped, raise the British forces to 12 or 15,000 men, the whole to be supported by the operations of a powerful fleet on the coast. The 44th and 48th Regiments, being stationed in Ireland, were so weak in numbers that they could not muster nearly the requisite strength, which was made up of drafts from other regiments and enlistments; but so odious was the destined service that every effort of the officers failed to restrain desertion. The new enlistments were from the worst class of the population, which did not tend to elevate the personal standard of the regiments. A sufficient train of artillery and all needful stores were provided, and on the 15th of October Sir John St. Clair, Lieutenant Colonel of O'Farrell's Regiment of Foot (22nd), who had been appointed Deputy Quartermaster General for all the forces in America, embarked for Virginia to acquaint himself with the scene of his future duties. On the 30th of November, Braddock sailed to Cork in the famous *Centurion*, to hasten the tardy movements of the expedition; but so wearisome had the delay become to his ardent spirit that, finding he could not expedite matters, he returned to England, and finally sailed from the Downs with his staff on the 21st of December, leaving the main body of the fleet to follow at their earliest speed, and they finally left Cork on the 14th January, 1755. While all these hostile preparations were being perfected, the Duke of Newcastle, with utter disregard for decency with that mendaciousness which so preeminently distinguished him, kept protesting to the French ambassador and court that the intentions of his master were eminently pacific. On the 20th of February, 1755, Commodore Keppel's little squadron, consisting of his own vessel, the *Centurion*, the *Norwich*, and the *Syren*, men-of-war, cast anchor in Hampton Roads. On board the *Norwich*, were General Braddock, Capt. Robert Orme, his principal aid-de-camp, and Mr. William Shirley, his military secretary. Immediately on his landing, the nature of the difficulties with which he had to combat became apparent in the shape of unskilful and stupid officers. His Quartermaster General's plan for cantoning the troops consisting of 1000 men embraced a circuit of only three hundred miles. This was very properly dispensed with, and the troops encamped as they arrived. The various colonies of British America had yet to learn the value of unity of purpose and action. No militia force worthy of the name existed, and great aversion to a militia law was manifested by their Legislative Assemblies. The constitution or charter under which each colony was established did not recognize a responsible ministry at all: no power interposed between the Assembly and the Governor, who chose his own advisers as he thought proper—often perfect strangers to the country, and unable, through prejudice and want of knowledge, to understand its requirements or obtain the confidence and control of the people. It is evidently on this, then the only known model of free institutions, the constitution of the United States has been founded, the framers thereof forgetting that a constitutional government and free institutions cannot exist without a ministry responsible to the Legislative Assembly. In the case of the colonies, the evils of this system were aggravated by the irresponsibility of the whole Executive; therefore it is no wonder that the Assemblies were generally at issue with the Governors, and generally set themselves to look on all the measures initiated with suspicion, and to combine to thwart them in every possible

way. Another difficulty was mixed up with this in no ordinary degree, and that was a question of trade. All the colonies that had any surplus agricultural produce found a ready and profitable market therefor at Louisburg, in Cape Breton, and other French ports. The universal training of the population of the Franco-American colonies as militia soldiers, prevented proper attention being paid to agriculture, hence the necessity for importation, the secret of French success at the outbreak of hostilities, and the reluctance of the British to break up a profitable trade. Long after the disaster at Fort du Quesne, over forty English colonial vessels could be counted in the harbour of Louisburg discharging cargoes of agricultural produce. Another very potent source of trouble arose from the Indian traders and frontier settlers along the disputed borders. Those gentry, the most lawless and daring portion of the community, did not wish to have intruders too well initiated into the secrets by which the unfortunate aboriginals were stripped of their lands and poltry. A thorough good understanding appears to have existed between themselves and the French. A busy traffic had been established with the frontier posts, and on more than one occasion they did the French cause good service by persuading the Indians not to join Braddock's force or give him any assistance.

CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 6th March, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

No. 1.

Quebec Provisional Brigade Garrison Artillery.
No. 3 Battery.

The resignation of 2nd Lieutenant R. J. Wicksteed, is hereby accepted.

3rd Battalion "Victoria Volunteer Rifles,"
Montreal.

To be Major:

Captain Nathaniel Jones Handyside, vice Hutton, promoted.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Wm. H. Stanley, vice Handy side, promoted.

23rd "Essex" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 2 Company, Windsor.

To be Lieutenant, acting till further orders:

Ensign Mark Richards, vice Horno, transferred to No. 1 Company.

To be Ensign, acting till further orders:

Sergeant Frederick T. Rice, vice Richards, promoted.