

enough to drive the English from their vantage ground in the rear of the city. But the next year, the Chevalier de Lévis marched down from Montreal with 3,500 regulars, 2,800 militia and 200 Indians, drove in the English advanced posts and marched along the Ste. Foye road towards Quebec, where he met the English army drawn up to dispute his passage. Arranging in line his veteran troops—for even the Canadians were veterans in those days—he showed them the enemy, consisting of 7,000 British regulars with 22 pieces of cannon. Then bidding them remember the fame of their ever glorious record, he put his chapeau on the point of his sword and led them against the foe. His movements, though hurried, were well combined. By advancing one flank further than the other, he calculated to turn the English, when they retreated and drive them into the St. Charles. But the English fled so rapidly before the charge of his grenadiers and light infantry that they reached the city gates before Lévis had anticipated. Had not the French been fatigued by their long journey from Montreal, their long fasts on short rations and the extraordinary labors of the battle, they might have entered themselves and taken the city. For the guards at the gate were demoralized at seeing their own army in the greatest distress and fear come flying pell-mell through, and had fled also, leaving the pathway open. Over 2,000 were killed in this battle, of which

the French lost 600 men and 100 officers. The victors slept on the field worn out by their toils and hardships. Then they commenced a siege of the place in due form. They mounted 14 cannons, but the garrison and army in Quebec, having nothing to fear from the sea-side, trained 100 cannon from the walls to keep off the French. It was only a question of time, however, ere the garrison would be compelled to yield, but both parties looked for aid from beyond the seas. Those who knew the Pompadour government of France, however, were not disappointed when English men-of-war sailed into the port and the siege was broken. Lévis retired to Montreal with his little army, where soon after three English armies, from as many points of the compass were directed against him under the supreme command of Gen. Lord Ancherst. Here Lévis wished to fight again, but the Marquis de Vaudreuil, then governor, believing it to be useless and desiring to obtain the best terms possible, signed articles of capitulation, and it should be known whether France and England would agree as to their possessions in North America. These terms of capitulation will be given in Part IV, as they enter into the constitution of the country. In 1763 there was signed a treaty at Paris whereby Canada—not as a conquered country—but as a duly constituted and sovereign province was ceded to Great Britain under certain conditions and stipulations, mentioned in Part IV.

CHAPTER VI

CAUSE FOR THE LOSS OF CANADA TO FRANCE

The King of France, Louis XV, was a man of some ability, but of a dissatisfied disposition that prompted him ever to the search for new joys. He tired very soon of the old. Not sharing with his father the deeper principles of national glory, that they must derive their legitimacy by the advancement of the great and honorable of the nation, the prosperity of the people and the maintenance of national supremacy abroad, he never sought below the surface of flattery and adulation to see what might be the reality of his situation and the condition of his court and country. For this reason

and on account of an inordinate vanity, as well as a weariness over the details requisite for just rulership, he welcomed those who had a pleasing manner and a beautiful face, a flexible knee and a voluble tongue. His very vanity caused him to be offended at the legitimate pride of the ancient and chivalric aristocracy of France whose sense of decency, idea of honor and pride of ancestral grandeur held them back from that self-abasement the King desired to see in those who surrounded him. The result was the people who were encouraged by the King caused the most valuable and sincere of the aristocracy to visit the court but rarely, and the King was creating a new "nobility" by the "annoblissements" of these new courtiers, who, recruited from the class of "financiers" and speculators were not