

At a time when profligacy and profaneness was the order of the day, Wolfe had the courage to be a virtuous and religious man, in this, and the studious habits by which he was distinguished, forming a marked contrast to the society by which he was surrounded. Like Braddock, he was of Irish extraction, and a collateral relation to the celebrated Oliver Goldsmith. There are many points of resemblance in the career of both Generals, if historians would calmly consider the circumstances of each case without accepting prejudiced and interested reports, as matter of fact. Both had risen from the lower grades of their profession, without being possessed of aristocratic influence, by the sheer force of merit and character; both were thorough soldiers and good tacticians; both commanded expeditions the difficulties of which were thoroughly misunderstood, but here the comparison is in Braddock's favor, as he barely failed to accomplish the objects of his expedition by being disabled by a mortal wound, and having no officer in whose skill, courage or judgment the slightest reliance could be placed; his last hours were spent in a generous endeavor to shield the guilty at the expense of his own reputation. Wolfe, more fortunate, sacrificed his life in the service of his country, expiring amid a blaze of glory, the effulgence of which still eclipses the solid, stable, and less showy deeds of his contemporaries, having able and competent officers to succeed to the command, and secure the conquest his daring and skill prepared the way for. It is not a surprising matter to find the nation grateful for the first success awarded, after years of disgraceful and ruinous defeats, but at the time of the organization of the expedition, grave doubts were expressed as to the knowledge and capacity of the commander. Pitt, who then swayed the destinies of Britain, influenced no doubt by the recommendations of the Duke of Cumberland, knew well to whose hands he had intrusted "the fate of the administration and the interests of the country."

The force destined for the capture of Quebec amounted to 9,000 effective men, escorted by twenty-two sail of the line, an equal number of frigates, and a fleet of transports arrived off Louisburg on the 21st of April, but finding the harbor blocked up with ice, steered for Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and on the 6th of June following, proceeded from Louisburg for Quebec, landing on the 27th on the Island of Orleans. At an earlier period of the season, an advanced squadron under Admiral Durell, was pushed up the St. Lawrence as far as St. Paul's Bay, and took possession of the Isle aux Coudres, about forty five miles below Quebec, for the double purpose of preventing the fortification and occupation thereof by the French, and intercepting any reinforcement which France might attempt to throw into the fortress by sea. A ruse was resorted to for the purpose of obtaining pilots, which consisted of the hoisting of French colors by the vessels of the fleet, it was eminently successful, but, as may be supposed, the men thus obtained were unwilling guides, the river was totally unknown to English navigators, yet some of the masters of the men of war and transports preferred trusting to their own natural sagacity and professional acuteness for the safe conduct of their ships, and it is stated they were in all cases successful. M. Garneau, in his admirable history of Canada, states that "it has transpired in our own time that a Captain of a French frigate named Denis de Votre, taken prisoner during the war, piloted the ships to Quebec, a piece of treason for

which he was rewarded by a commission in the British service." This story may be true, or as it is asserted, that in one of the captures made by Durell's squadron, a set of charts of the river was found. This latter circumstance may have given rise to the story of the French Captain's treachery, which after all may have been nothing more than the neglect to destroy his important papers; at all events trusting to the difficulties and intricacy of the navigation, Montcalm neglected to fortify Isle aux Coudres, which commands the river, and could not be taken without great loss.

Quebec, the city against which Wolfe's operations were directed, stands on a steep promontory on the left bank of the St. Lawrence, just above the junction of the river St. Charles, the former stream is here about a mile wide, and with the ebb tide runs with great rapidity; for a considerable distance above the city the banks on both sides are steep and rugged, and must at the period of attack have been all but impracticable to troops.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE MILITIA BILL.

On Wednesday last the Hon. Mr. DORION moved an amendment to the House going into Committee on the Bill for an Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada, affirming the efficiency of the volunteer system, and supporting his amendment from his own particular point of view.

Mr. YOUNG and others contented that the Bill would completely destroy the volunteer system. He felt that the Minister of Militia was quite aware of the effect of the Bill, and really intended to substitute another for the present volunteer system. He did not believe the plan of forcing people to serve in the militia was consonant with the spirit of our institutions. He considered the volunteer the most effective system, and that it ought neither to be destroyed nor interfered with.

Mr. SPROAT was opposed to the amendment. Hitherto the volunteers had acted very well, but it could not be denied that as a force they were falling off. He did not believe in the system. The men endeavoured always to put in their sixteen days' drill and get their \$3 pay for it, but after that they dispersed and were not easily got together again. He thought it a pity that the amendment had been moved.

Mr. OLIVER denied that the volunteer system had proved a failure. He complained, however, of the treatment of the force by the Government, who had denied them clothing, arms and accoutrements. Such treatment was enough to destroy any force, and he was not surprised that the force had been reduced by 12,000 men. He believed that the expenditure on fortifications would be exceedingly injurious to the country. He thought the Bill was a particularly obnoxious one. Conscription and fortifications would do the country a vast amount of injury. The people of Ontario were always ready to serve their country when their services were required, and this Bill would be most distasteful to them.

Hon. Mr. LACOMBE opposed the amendment, considering that in the public interests the Bill was essential, and that but little dependence could be placed upon a system altogether dependent on the popular will.

Sir GEO. E. CARTER showed that if there were a sufficient number of volunteers there would be no conscription whatever. He respected the volunteers and was proud of

their achievements, but it would not do in any measure of defence, to be altogether dependent upon them. The Bill provided that in addition to the volunteers, the militia should be organized. Nothing more. While in Nova Scotia, as he perceived by the report of Col. Sinclair, Adjutant General of Militia, in that Province, 40,000 men were annually drilled for five consecutive days without any pay, and at consequently great pecuniary sacrifices to their families, his Bill provided for the payment of the militia when at drill.

Mr. JONES said that instead of 40,000 loyal men which the old militia law gave Nova Scotia, this Bill would only produce 6,000 conscripts.

Mr. MACKENZIE thought we could not at all ways depend upon having British troops in the Dominion, and some force as an internal police was necessary. He thought the volunteers could better supply their place than any organization. He was afraid 8 days' drill would not be sufficient to render efficient the sedentary militia. He believed that with well-instructed officers a very large and reliable force might be turned out on an emergency. He thought that the cost of the proposed force, \$1,000,000, was enormous for the results to be obtained.

Sir GEO. E. CARTER explained, stating that his Bill would equalize the burdens of militia service all over the Dominion, and added that recourse would only be had to the draft when volunteering ceased.

Mr. POWELL would not be trapped by any such motion as that by the Hon. Member for Hochelaga. He thought, however, that the Bill would have the effect of crushing out the volunteer system.

The House then divided on the amendment, there being yeas 41; nays 100.

The House went into Committee on the Bill, Hon. Stuart Campbell in the Chair.

Dr. GRANT said he rose with a considerable degree of hesitation to make some observations on the Bill introduced by the Hon. Minister of Militia and defence, particularly with reference to the organization of a Medical Department. In examining the able and well timed Bill, so elaborate in many particulars, he had failed to observe any provision with respect to such an organization. True, the Bill placed very great power in the hands of the Governor and Council, and such might be considered a matter of regulation. However, in so doing it would not be keeping pace, with the military advancement of the age, in every country claiming a position, in military matters, as to completeness of organization. According to an able writer, the highest office of all history, as is now universally recognized, is in instruction, in order that future generations may learn to avoid the errors of the past. Thus have we become intimately acquainted with the two great and recent struggles in arms, the Crimean and the American wars. The experience thus obtained form a chapter in itself, and an extensive one, too, on sanitary science. The disasters encountered were so remarkable that a searching enquiry was demanded. The result of the British Commission left no vague conjecture as to the causes which produced the fearful mortality among the allied troops before Sebastopol. Public opinion in England was indignant and horror-stricken at the fearful results, long before that war closed. Hence the source of enquiry. The result now formed a record of great extent and much value, on all subjects pertaining to the comfort, efficiency and health of armed forces. The experience of the Crimean war taught those who consulted it the exact nature and terrible dangers which accompanied all armies outside of the battle field, the possi-