

France put her military genius to task in order to suffocate and starve and crush out the English colonies of the seaboard. Who should remain masters of these habitable solitudes, of the French or of the English, such was the real object of this prolonged struggle. All was lost—for, what had cost miles of soldiers and heaps of piasters, La Pompadour estimated at the contemptible value of a few acres of snow. New France was doomed to disappear from the map of America, thanks to the abandonment of the home government and to the well-concerted blows of England and her American colonies.

The treaty of 1763 consecrated the victories of Great Britain. Her sway extended now over the greater part of North America and of the West Indies.

Mighty, indeed, had been the efforts of these three Unifigent nations !

The reign of England, however, was destined to be short-lived. The minds of the colonists had been too sharpened by hard-earned experience not to allure them to the conclusion that the union of their military forces, which had proved so effective against the French and their allies, might be employed in their own deliverance.

Every reader of the history of the United States is familiar with the planting of colonies, along the Atlantic coast, by the English, French, Dutch, and Swedes—with their gradual moving toward the foot of the Alleghanies—with their war of independence—with their organization into a perfected confederacy—with their sliding on the Western slope of the Alleghanies down to the Mississippi—with their march hence to the Rocky Mountains—with their climbing over those vertebræ of the Continent—never stopping, after having absorbed every