

The Edinburgh Review

(ARTICLE VI.)

"The whole history of both these American wars has been written for our learning, and, if rightly studied, cannot but be most profitable; but perhaps the chapter which conveys fewest practical lessons to the mere soldier is that which, to the lay reader, has always seemed the most interesting—the story of the capture of Quebec. To our fellow-subjects of the Dominion, indeed, it looms disproportionately large. In the transcendent brilliance of the closing scene, they lose sight of the fact that the Siege was more a naval operation than a military, and in the exaggeration of local feeling, Quebec appears as the one and only objective of the war... And yet we are almost inclined to condone the fault when the immediate outcome of it is the magnificent series of volumes whose title stands at the head of this article.... Printed in a manner that would reflect credit upon our best English presses, and profusely illustrated with portraits, views and plans, it stands out as a record of glorious achievement, and gives keener point to the epitaph: "*Mortem virtus communem, famam historia, monumentum posteritas dedit.*"

As to the landing itself, or rather the passage of the boats to the landing place, and the movements of the ships which covered it, there has been much misrepresentation, repeated over and over again, without anyone apparently thinking it worth while to examine the only authorities of any weight, the logs of the ships themselves. In a work such as Mr. Doughty's, the omission is almost culpable. He rests indeed upon the statement of Mr de Foligné, a French officer stationed at the time in Quebec itself,