

that the sentries although relieved every half hour frequently lose their toes and fingers. Some have lost their limbs by mortification in a few hours. There is no such thing as using any kind of exercise to keep themselves warm, the snow in many places lying 10, 12 and 16 feet deep, and when it ceases snowing the whole island is covered with a sheet of ice. Nothing is more common than for one guard to dig the other out of the guard room before they can relieve them, and also the rest of the officers and soldiers out of their several quarters, the drift snow sometimes covering the houses entirely." So much or Admiral Knowles whose misrepresentations did so much to injure Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

The consequences of restoring Louisbourg to the French were speedily seen; French power in North America was more firmly established than ever before and it became necessary for the British government, at great cost, to settle and fortify Chebucto, which then became known to the world by the name of Halifax. The peace of Aix la Chapelle was but a truce, for war was resumed in America between England and France in 1754. Three years later the English were again seeking to recover Louisbourg. It was thought this could be accomplished with the aid of a powerful fleet, by six regiments of regulars and a contingent of colonial troops. Lord London, a most incapable person, was then in command of the British forces in America, and everything he undertook was almost certain to fail. On the 30th June 1757 London arrived at Halifax from New York with a fleet of transports laden with troops, and a few days later Admiral Holborne

came in with eleven ships of the line and six thousand soldiers from England. De la Mothe, the French Admiral, was at that time lying at Louisbourg with a powerful fleet, and London did not deem it prudent to attack the place which according to the information then received had a garrison of 6,000 regular troops, 300 inhabitants and 1,300 Indians, besides being protected by a fleet of twenty warships, of which seventeen were ships of the line. Under these circumstances the prepared attempt on Louisbourg was abandoned and before the end of the year incapable London was relieved of his command.

The elder Pitt, the greatest war minister that England ever had, was now at the head of affairs and he was, determined to capture Louisbourg. For this purpose he selected men whose capacity was undoubted and who would not be likely to repeat the tactics of London and Holborne. The command of the land forces was given to General Jeffrey Amherst, a good soldier, and under him were three able brigadiers, Wolfe, Lawrence and Whitmore. The land forces numbered 12,000 men. The fleet which consisted of twenty-three ships of the line and eighteen frigates was under the command of Admiral Boscawen, a little man, with a wry neck, but the courage of a lion. The fleet, which, including transports, numbered one hundred and fifty seven sail, left Halifax on the 28th May 1758 and a portion of it arrived in Gobarus bay on the 2nd June. The weather was bad and the surf so high that it was the 8th before a landing could be effected. General Wolfe, the hero of Quebec, was in charge of the landing party, and he