

The
landing.

The boats, safely past the second sentry, were carried so swiftly down by the current that Wolfe presently found himself overshooting the precise spot at which he wished to land. How they ever found their way at all and how they avoided hopeless confusion in the dark is sheer mystery. Led by Captain Delaune the first volunteers jumped ashore ; the narrow path to the top had been protected by an abatis of fallen trees, but the men never hesitated. With their guns slung on their backs they began to pull themselves up the steep face of the cliff with the aid of the bushes and anything that afforded foothold or handhold. A larger detachment followed, and all got up safely without so much as a challenge. Admiral Saunders described the difficulty of gaining the top as " scarcely credible " ;¹ it was hardly less credible that the inevitable cracking of branches of trees, the rolling down of stones and the involuntary mutterings of men who found themselves in danger of pitching headlong back to the shore should not have reached the ears of anyone in Vergor's can.p. Wolfe remained below straining every nerve for the first indication of what might happen. He had his men now rapidly arriving ready to follow if the volunteers succeeded in overwhelming the guard ; if they failed they knew they would be sacrificed, but Wolfe would not have sacrificed his army. As Mr. Doughty suggests,² this view is borne out by the letter he wrote to Townshend a few hours previously : " General Monckton is charged with the first landing and attack on the Foulon. If he succeeds you will be pleased to give directions that the troops afloat

¹ *Correspondence of Pitt*, vol. ii, p. 170.

² *The Siege of Quebec*, vol. iii, p. 83.