

MONTCALM AND FRENCH CANADA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF CHARLES DE BONNECHOSE
BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 42.)

IN Europe, there was still peace; a strange situation, perhaps unparalleled in history. For two years, English and French blood reddened the verdure of the American forests, while the ambassadors of the two nations were being warmly fêted at Versailles and St. James. Alas! the French government, which realised its incurable weakness, clung desperately to even the shadow of peace. But one day, "in spite of the law of nations, and faith of treaties and the usage of civilised peoples", at a signal given by the Admiralty in London, from every part of the horizon, the English vessels pounced upon our merchant-ships and war-ships, our fishing craft, our whalers and our coasters. In one month, 300 vessels, manned by 8000 men, were captured by the enemy and towed in triumph into the harbours of Great Britain. The glorious escutcheon of England remains, by this act, darkened with a blot which cannot be washed out by all the water of that Ocean which was the scene of these piracies. Louis XV, even Louis XVI, resented the affront and became once more for a moment the king of Fontenoy. He wrote to George II an indignant letter demanding reparation, and this delusive peace, which was simply a screen for ambuscades, was officially broken the 18th of May, 1756.

What was then the situation respectively of the two colonies which were about to measure their strength in mortal combat? The English plantations, with their 1,500,000 inhabitants, were at this period twenty times more populous than Canada, which could still reckon only 80,000. At the same time, their territory, more compact and infinitely less extensive than that of New France, could be more easily defended; moreover, it was flanked by the sea and in direct communication with the Metropolis, whereas, since the loss of Acadia, Canada's only outlet was the St. Lawrence. To these advantages of situation and numbers, add another; the British colonies were richer, more flourishing. To what cause must their superiority over our still more ancient settlements be attributed? To the fruitful influence of political and religious liberties, answers a certain school in Berlin and Boston which, under the pretext of celebrating in the fall of the French dominion in America, the defeat of despotism by liberty, in reality exalts the victory of the Germanic race over the Latin. What was the cause of the inferiority of Canada to the English colonies in industry and agriculture, matters little, this cannot be disputed, that from a military standpoint, our disaster was due to the want of men. In a sustained struggle against a people twenty times more numerous, defeat is inevitable, and if Canada had possessed at this time all the liberties of the world, she

would have lost her own. Never was struggle more unequal and the power of numbers more decisive; our colony was not conquered, brought low, but submerged by the invasion and, to the cry of "Vive la France", she was engulfed in the flood with her standard.

Nevertheless, in the beginning of the hostilities, the Canadians possessed over their formidable neighbours one advantage, unity, a powerful engine of war. The resources of New France were weak, but they proceeded from one common centre, and, therefore, the movements were more in harmony and more rapid. Among the Anglo-Americans this unity was altogether wanting: the thirteen colonies which became, twenty years later, the thirteen first United States, were very much disunited in 1756, although having in common certain religious and political chiefs. Each of the plantations had been founded by a separate charter; all had different laws, and often opposing interests. The manners, the temperaments and sometimes the origin of the settlers were not alike.

The hand of the British government, heavy in commercial and industrial questions, was light in politics; the royal governors almost left the colonies to rule themselves, and they took good care not to put an end to the rivalries which, by dividing the transatlantic states, already too powerful, strengthened the Metropolis. For their part, the thirteen colonies isolated from one another by so many causes, had not yet felt the need of union for the triumph of the public good, or rather, up to this time, the public good had no existence.

Through the new war will arise and grow larger the federative idea and, under the pressure of events, all Anglo-Americans will be led to combine their finances, their soldiers and their passions. On that day, France will lose Canada, and, on the next, England will be engaged in conflict with her ancient colonies in America: they will have signed the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July, 1776.

Our Young Folk's Serial.

THE WHITE COTTAGE:

Or the Fortunes of a Boy-Emigrant in Canada.

BY MRS. S. A. CURZON.

CHAPTER I.

"THE PLACE WHERE I WAS BORN."

YES, "The White Cottage" is mine, and most folks think it a very pretty place, I fancy; for, though there are plenty of other white cottages around, mine has come to be a sort of finger-post, and travellers are directed by it hither and thither.