

claim, there had been a constant increase in the numerical disparity of the two people now arrayed against each other. Thrift, stability, and a fixedness upon the soil, as well as the inviting conditions of a new country which drew alien blood to be assimilated, had raised the census of the English colonies to a height which represented a military prowess that might well have discouraged an enemy less virile than that along the St. Lawrence. Had the French not valued as a compensation the agile woodcraft of their bushrangers, and the trusty, if murderous, spirit of their red allies, they might still have taken courage from the incoherency of the English colonies, their jealousies, and the self-centred policies of their little autonomies, as well as from the apathy of some of their not wholly assimilated aliens. It was these elements which protracted the war for seven years, till a lucky, though sturdy, stroke on the plains of Abraham, hardly more assured of success than an earlier fortunate hap at Louisbourg, led to the pacification of 1763.

In the two hundred and sixty-six years which had passed since England established her claim by the *prima vista* of the maps, there had been first a long period of apathy, then a brisk century of colonization, then an active jealousy of alien encroachments. This distrust of the French led, as we have seen, to a war, whose outcome had not