

persevere in the neutrality hitherto scrupulously observed with respect to the internal dissensions of France, and from which it will never depart unless the conduct held there makes it indispensable as an act of self-defence." The conduct of France was soon of a nature to oblige England to rise in self-defence.

In November, 1792, the French Government by resolving to attack Holland violated the treaty it had signed with England two years before. England joined the first coalition against France and though she could not furnish well disciplined troops she could and did furnish money. By the treaty of Campo Formio signed October 18th, 1797, France made peace with England's last ally, Austria. Napoleon then set out for the East with the determination of invading and laying waste British India. The battle of the Pyramids made him master of Egypt. England as before stated had no army to cope with her mighty enemy, but she had a fleet and a master admiral, Nelson. Nelson met Napoleon's fleet in the Bay of Aboukir and at the close of the encounter he uttered those memorable words. "Victory is not a name strong enough for such a scene." Few more important victories than this were ever gained by any general. It may be said to have put an end to Napoleon's Eastern expedition and what it warded off by so doing was thus expressed by the great French general years afterwards: "With a hundred thousand men on the banks of the Euphrates I might have changed the face of the world."

Finding it impossible to realize his plans whilst he was being continually harassed by the British fleet Napoleon resolved to put an end to that bugbear once for all. By the treaty of Luneville concluded in February, 1801, being again at peace with the whole continent, he determined to strike a final blow at British power on the seas, and for this purpose leagued with himself Denmark, Sweden and Russia, at the time the only continental countries besides France possessing a fleet of any importance. But his efforts were again in vain. Nelson hurried to the North, came up with the Danish fleet off Copenhagen and :

"Again, again, again,
And the havoc did not slack
Till a feeble cheer the Dane
To our cheering sent us back.

* * * * *

Then all is woe and wail
As they strike the shattered sail
Or in conflagration pale
Light the gloom."

It stung the ambitious French leader to the quick to behold England with her navy set his invincible army at defiance. Reflecting on the disproportion between the populations of the two countries he exclaimed: "Fifteen millions of people must give way to forty millions." He is also reported to have said: "Let us be masters of the Channel (English Channel) for six hours and we are masters of the world." Under Napoleon's direction, Admiral Villeneuve, of Toulon, having united the Spanish ships with his own, drew Nelson off to the West Indies, evaded him and hastened back to Cadiz with the intention of joining the French squadron and putting an end to that part of the English fleet which was in the Channel. But Nelson hotly pursued his enemy and met him off Cape Trafalgar when, on the 21st of Oct., 1805, the great battle was fought in which Britain's ablest and bravest admiral lost his life. Shortly after that great victory Pitt in his last public words said: "England has saved herself by her courage; she will save Europe by her example." Who can tell what might have been England's and even all Europe's lot had any other than the immortal Nelson stood at the helm of the British fleet during these perilous times.

Steamboats and telegraph lines were not as yet in use and consequently the news of Nelson's great victory and heroic death did not reach Montreal before December. The papers containing the account arrived in the town at a time when a grand ball was being held in the Exchange Coffee House. Amidst cheers and intense excitement the dispatch was read before the assembled merry-makers. A certain Mr. Samuel Gerard at once proposed to have a monument erected in the city in honor of the slain admiral. The suggestion was heartily endorsed by all present, a subscription list was opened and a goodly sum collected that very