

VII.—*Thomas Pownall.—His Part in the Conquest of Canada.*

By W. D. LIGHTHALL, M.A., F.R.S.L., F.R.S.C.

(Read June 23, 1904.)

In an article in the *Antiquarian Journal* of Montreal (Third Series, Volume III., No. 5), afterwards separately issued in pamphlet form under the title of "The Glorious Enterprise," I drew attention to a chain of family relationships and other facts, throwing new light on the various plans of campaign for the conquest of the French dominions in America from 1689 to 1760.<sup>1</sup> It was shown from the official documents that the principal of these plans—those of 1689-90, 1710-11 and 1759-60—were in reality forms of one and the same; that they all originated in the province of New York; that they were the work of one group of men united together by close bonds of blood or marriage—a part of the manorial gentry of the province—that this plan and the military and topographical knowledge connected with it were a kind of family inheritance; and that the outlines of the plan constituted the only practical scheme of invasion of New France; the only one by which success was possible; and the actual one by which success was at last attained. It was shown that its originator was Colonel Peter Schuyler, of Albany, in 1689; that Sir William Phips and General Winthrop were not the true leaders, but in reality secondary actors, in the invasion of that time; that the projected invasion of 1710-11, according to the scheme of Colonel Samuel Vetch, was a resuscitation of the idea, originating in the fact that Vetch married Schuyler's niece, the daughter of Robert Livingston, one of the chief agents in the matter, and lived among them at Albany; and that the final plan adopted by William Pitt, and assigned by him to Amherst and Wolfe for execution, was the same thing once more, proceeding from Lieutenant-Governor De Lancey, grandnephew of Peter Schuyler, and was drawn from the same store of tradition.

Those concerned were well aware of the breadth and consequences of the idea. In 1689, the Albany agents to the other colonies referred to it as "soe glorious an enterprise," "soe noble a designe," "such a noble design." In 1709, Vetch wrote of it as "this noble enterprise," "this noble designe," Quarry as "that noble design against Canada"; in 1711, Gov. Hunter as "this glorious enterprise"; The Sachems of the Five Nations called it "this great design"; others

<sup>1</sup> Some minor errors crept into this pamphlet owing to its being hastily rewritten after loss of the original manuscript.