



# The Volunteer Review

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For "THE REVIEW."

### THOUGHTS.

BY ENSIGN J. R. WILKINSON.

Why is it ever thus—  
These mystic thoughts and tears,  
Are ever present with me  
As a dream, for years and years?  
Is it the sound of the wearied winds,  
In their course o'er the withered lea,  
Rustling the Autumn leaves,  
Down from each faded tree!

Or the flight of little birds,  
As they pass from us away;  
With their cheerful songs of gladness  
That we miss, from day to day:  
Or the crickets ceaseless chaunting,  
In the serried grass and flowers—  
Awakening old memories  
Of long, long silent hours!

The sombre hues that gather,  
Far over hill and dell;  
The flowing brook and fountain  
Seem haunted like a spell.  
Ah, heart! thou too art haunted,  
And weary, weary grown,  
Dead leaves are 'round thee lying—  
Thy verdure, all is gone.

Is it the moaning of the billows,  
That surge o'er the lone y sea;  
Whose mournful tones are ever  
Breathing unto me  
Of a brother, that I loved,  
Lost in their mighty deep!  
Where none can gather near,  
O'er his lone grave to weep.

Or when I walk at even,  
Along the dim-lit shore,  
I hear sad voices whisper  
Nevermore; ah! nevermore!  
And I bow me down in silence,  
To that strange, resistless power,  
And weep for the departed  
That loved, in childhood's hour.

Then I gaze far out and upward,  
To God's great vaulted dome,  
Where the stars in all their splendor  
Are gleaming one by one;  
And they seem so pure and holy  
In their calm and silvery light;  
I feel subdued and lowly,  
'Neath their far, far pathless flight.

Ah! I think it is thus with me,  
That the great Creator's power  
Is ever present with me—  
In each leaf, and tree, and flower!  
In the sighing of the winds,  
And the moaning of the sea;—  
All join in one grand anthem  
Of the great Eternity!

Leamington, Ont.

### THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

#### NUMBER X.

(Continued from our last.)

It has been generally admitted that the fall of Quebec was the immediate cause of the conquest of Canada, and that the blood of the gallant and heroic Wolfe purchased for his country her brief tenure of Empire in North America; in reality the Quebec expedition was an episode in the contest in no way affecting its final issue. The first vital blow which the French power received was when Bradstreet captured Frontenac after Abercrombie's disgraceful failure at Ticonderoga in 1758; the mistake which left that position uncovered never could be repaired. Shut out as they (the French) were from supplies by sea, and, although the British General neither understood the importance of securing his conquest, nor had the capacity to turn it to account, his successor was perfectly capable to make the most of what he neglected, and by a series of well planned and well timed movements, drove them from the lake frontier and crushed their whole line of defence from the Ohio to the St. Lawrence. If Gage had been a man of enterprise, Amherst would have wintered in Montreal, the part therefore which the expedition that captured Quebec played, was, after all, a secondary one.

Early in the spring the French Government, notwithstanding the watchfulness of the English fleet, sent two frigates and fifteen transports to Quebec with reinforcements, consisting of six hundred soldiers, at the same time plainly intimating that it would be impossible to send more, and as they had been warned by Montcalm that the conquest of Canada would be effected at the furthest in 1760, they did not wish to sacrifice troops whose ultimate fate would be at least capture by the British. An official enumeration of the force available in Canada for the campaign of 1759 gives as follows.

Govt. Quebec.	7,511 men and youths.
" Three Rivers . . . . .	1,314 "
" Montreal, . . . . .	6,405 "
Total . . . . .	15,229

Between the ages of sixteen and sixty, the

number of trained soldiers were 5,300, and with those resources Canada bravely prepared to strike the last blow and fire the last gun in defence of French honor and supremacy on this continent.

On the 14th of February, 1759, the armament designed for the operations against Quebec sailed from Portsmouth, and on Saturday the 17th of the same month, Major-General Wolfe, Commander-in-Chief, embarked at Spithead for Louisburg, which was the first destination of the troops. This remarkable man was in the thirty-third year of his age, and had received his promotion as the reward of intrinsic merit, at a time when the British army was the refuge for idle, profligate, ignorant and desperate; when every man of rank or influence had a *led captain* in his train, whose business it was to act as half pander, half bully and oftentimes wholly cut throat, and who generally held the nominal rank ascribed to him in some marching regiment, the higher ranks of which were the *birth right*, or assumed to be, of my Lords portionless and profligate younger brothers and cousins. When troops used to be disbanded at the close of a war, filling the country with highwaymen and beggars; when discipline, or the rumor thereof, was unknown, and when the ranks of the army was composed of jail-birds, who were often marched to join their regiments handcuffed and manacled, lest they should give the inefficient police of the day the slip, and return to their old haunts of profligacy and guilt. At a period when the affairs of the State, army and navy, were shamefully mismanaged, Wolfe as Subaltern, Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel, recognized the professional necessity of a scientific education, and studiously set himself to the task of attaining it. As a Subaltern, his services were seen and recognized by the Duke of Cumberland, whose faults, whatever they might be, never blinded his reason or made him forget real merit; it attracted the attention of his superior officers, who were glad to substitute his knowledge of routine discipline for their own lack of it. As a field officer, the regiments he commanded became models for the whole army, and years after his death, the Drill Instructions issued to the 20th Regiment, then called Kingsbly's, of which he was Lieutenant-Colonel, were the only standards of discipline in the service,