

with the immediate circumstances in his favour, as they were, Wolfe's gallant twenty-four might still have effected a successful coup and the developments would have been pretty much what they were. When Wolfe's boat was opposite the Samos shore and consequently nearing his objective, a sentinel's voice broke the stillness of those anxious moments: "*Qui vive!*" A captain of Fraser's Highlanders, who knew French, answered "*La France!*" Parkman says that the question, "*À quel régiment?*" followed, and the captain, knowing that part of the corps was with Bougainville, answered: "*De la Reine.*"¹ The Abbé Casgrain says that the sentinel, thinking it was the convoy of provisions, the order for which had been countermanded though the guards had not been so informed, allowed the boats to pass without demanding the password or assuring himself of the truth.² A little later the challenge was repeated, and in response to the question, "*Pourquoi est-ce que vous ne parlez plus haut?*" the captain enjoined the sentry not to make a noise; the sloop, *Hunter*, was near, and they might be overheard. The presence of the *Hunter*, thus turned to such excellent account, had very nearly involved a mishap that would have been fatal. The captain had been misled as to the provision boats also. As Wolfe got within half a cable's length, he noticed that the *Hunter's* crew were running to quarters and training their guns on his boat. He was only just in time to hail her and prevent the probable failure of the whole enterprise.³

¹ *Montcalm and Wolfe*, vol. ii, p. 298.

² *Wolfe and Montcalm*, p. 180.

³ Wood, p. 229.