

# Battlefield of Quebec of Great Historic Interest



OLLOWING is the first of a series of articles contributed to the London Times on "The Battlefield of Quebec," by the Hon. John Fortescue.

One hundred years, within a few weeks, have passed away since the deputies of Asturias arrived in England to report that their province had risen in insurrection against the French, and to entreat the help of the British Government. It was a fateful moment; for it marked the opening of the last act in the long drama of military rivalry between France and England. The earlier acts are part of the history of Britain; and yet it is not in Europe that the struggle between the two nations can be most profitably studied. To understand it aright it is not enough to turn to the papers of monarch and ministers, to follow William to Steenkirk or Marlborough to Blenheim. It is necessary to wander over the sea to East and to West and to watch the representatives of French and British when thrown upon their own resources, enjoying a free hand, far removed alike from the assistance and interference of their Courts. Then it will be seen that it was always the French who first developed what may be called the Imperial spirit, and the British who, half unconsciously, caught that spirit from them. Both alike were lured across the sea by the attractions of commerce; but, while the British were content to traffic, the French aspired to rule. Wherever they went, local politics (to use a familiar phrase) possessed an irresistible fascination for them. Endowed with lively imagination, filled with a sense of their country's greatness and high destiny, they took native chiefs and princes without hesitation into their hands; and the British, looking up from their ledgers, discovered that they must change the pen for the sword, or close their accounts for ever. Happily, though France possessed among her traders so great a genius as DuRoi, England could meet her with such a clerk as Robert Clive.

But India is not the sphere in which the rivalry of the two nations offers the most characteristic features. In the East we can see them as represented by a few individuals; in the West we are able to study them as communities. As in India, English and French arrived in North America almost at the same moment. Henry VII's patronage of Cabot gave England its first vague claim to the sovereignty of the vast continent, but French seamen were the first in the work of exploring the coast. Denis of Honfleur found his way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1500. Jacques Cartier sailed up the great river in 1535, and left behind him the two names of St. Lawrence and Montreal; and 60 years later, in 1608, British adventurers established their first settlement on James river, while Samuel Champlain simultaneously laid the foundation of Montreal and Quebec as stations for trading with the Indians. Hard upon Champlain followed the Jesuit missionaries, and at once the national spirit of the French displayed itself. Their only neighbors were Indian tribes scanty in numbers and very low in the scale of civilization; but they were there, and that was sufficient. The new-comers must take the savages in hand, interfere with their domestic affairs, bend them to their influence, sway them to their will. In precisely the same spirit the whole French nation in 1792 marched out to force the principles of their revolution upon the nations of Europe. But the Jesuits went out to their work singly and not in hosts; solitary devoted men, in perils of the wilderness, in perils of starvation, in perils of savage men who had made torture into a fine art. Such risks were nothing to them. A vast wild land was before them, and they must traverse it, seeking out new converts to be baptized, new souls to be saved, new dominions for jewels in the crown of the Most Christian King. Courageous, pliant, subtle, deeply versed in human nature, dexterous to a fault (to speak gently) in the management of men, they were eminently sons of the Society of Jesus; restless, enterprising, imaginative, and undaunted, they were, above all things, sons of France.

Wide as is the distance between the British and French settlements, the two nations came into collision almost at once. The Jesuits had founded a little station at Port Royal, in Acadia. The Governor of Virginia considered it his first duty to uproot it, which he proceeded to do by force in 1613. Moreover, in England there was at this period a mania for obtaining from King James I. grants of land in North America, which were lavishly conceded by scores of thousands of square miles to companies or individuals. One grantee thus obtained the territory which, in compliance to his Sovereign, he called Nova Scotia; and, as this was a part of Acadia, which was claimed by the French, there were laid the foundations of a very pretty quarrel. Six years later, in 1617, a company of adventurers took advantage of war with France to sail up the St. Lawrence to capture Quebec and to achieve, virtually, the conquest of Canada. Thus the main gate of the new France was won, and the actual captors knew the value of it. "If the King keeps Quebec," they wrote, "we care not what the French or any other can do, though they have an hundred sail of ships and ten thousand men." But the French could also appreciate the strategic value of Quebec, and they knew that Charles I. was short of cash and on bad terms with his Parliament. So upon the negotiations for peace in 1632 they offered £50,000 for its ransom. Charles could

not withstand the temptation; and Quebec once again became a French settlement.

Meanwhile, in 1621, there had landed at New Plymouth the first batch of British emigrants of a new kind, emigrants, to use their own flattering description, for conscience sake. King James granted a charter to the infant settlement, and in 1625 declared it to be a part of his empire. Three years more saw the foundation, in 1628, of a far more important colony, that of Massachusetts, a foundation laid by an extremely able, ambitious and intolerant body of men. Within ten years their narrowness had driven three several parties from their midst to find new homes in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Haven; and then by great good fortune they found the reefs thrown on their neck by the outbreak of the civil war at home. Massachusetts in a few years rose to the head of the Confederated States of New England, and became practically an independent republic, negotiating with the French in Acadia without regard to the Mother Country. Nor was it until the end of Charles II.'s reign that, grudgingly and reluctantly, she yielded a feigned obedience to the Crown.

In the interval Oliver Cromwell had sent an expedition in 1654, to invite New England to join with him in the capture of the Dutch settlements at the mouth of the Hudson. But the colonies declined to take part in the venture, and the expedition, sailing on to the French settlements in Acadia, captured that province for the second time, but did not venture to attack Quebec. Still, the civil day for the Dutch was not postponed, for New Amsterdam was taken by Col. Nicolls in 1664 and re-named by him New York; and, though the now famous city was re-captured by the Dutch in 1673, it was quickly recovered and finally assured to the British in 1674. Acadia had meanwhile been restored to the French by the Treaty of Breda in 1667; but this was a small matter compared with the acquisition of New York. For thereby there was gained, in the first place, access by the Hudson, the Mohawk, Lake Oneida, and Lake Ontario to the great fur-trade with the Indians. In the second place, the Hudson formed the second great gate with North America; and very soon it was recognized that the nation which held both gates, both New York and Quebec, would be master of the continent. James, Duke of York, better known to us as James II., received the entire province of New York as a grant from his brother, and, like a wise man, sent two companies of infantry to form his garrison. But the great protection of the newly-acquired territory lay in the Five Nations of Iroquois Indians that lay beyond it to the North and West. They were the most warlike and powerful of all the tribes; and the Dutch had wisely cultivated a good understanding with them, which the British as wisely pursued with the closest imitation of Dutch methods. Every year the Governor of New York repaired to Albany, where the chiefs renewed the "covenant-chain," as it was called, giving their pre-

sents of wampum, and receiving in exchange beaded coats and wigs to adorn their outer man, and tobacco and rum to comfort them within. Never was this ceremony omitted; for beyond the Iroquois lay the French and their Indians; and the French were known to be working assiduously to steal away the hearts of England's native allies. The capture of New York, in fact, fairly brought the two rivals face to face, and from 1680 until 1760 it may be said that they were never at peace in America.

With their usual restless energy, the French had been spreading far over the country, while the English settlers were making their homes. Champlain had discovered the way to the headwaters of the Hudson by way of Lake Champlain and Lake George; and the Jesuits, following another of his voyages, had reached Lake Huron from the head of the Ottawa, from whence they roved to Lakes Superior and Michigan, erecting mission-houses and annexing vast tracts of land in the name of Louis XIV. Moreover, they made maps which they brought back to Quebec; and so it came about that, before Charles II. had been long on the Throne, the Intendant of Canada, Jean Talon, conceived the vast scheme of carrying the French to the rear of the British settlements, confining the latter to a mere strip of the sea-board, and cutting them off wholly from the land within. The idea is one which Talon's compatriots have followed, not without success, in another continent in more recent days; but it could not be fulfilled until more was known of the great waterways of the interior. Robert LaSalle, a daring young adventurer, undertook to explore them, and in ten years the work was accomplished. In 1670 he passed by Detroit from Lake Huron to Lake Erie and so to Ohio; in 1678 he discovered the Falls of Niagara and built a fort there on the spot; and in 1680 he started down the Illinois river from the present site of Chicago, and within five months passed the mouth of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. The preliminary work was done. It remained only to build forts at the various strategic points, which was speedily accomplished and the British were in fact effectually shut off from the heart of the continent.

But for the possession of New York, our countrymen would hardly have discovered the fact, so busy were they with their agriculture, their religious observances, and, above all, with the squabbles of province with province. But the New York merchants foresaw the loss of the fur trade, and the foremost, who was a capable soldier, grasped the whole situation at a glance. But it was vain for him to write letters to Whitehall, for they were little heeded while Charles still sat on the throne. When James II. succeeded his brother, however, the case was different. He saw that the French really only existed in North America on sufferance, owing to the disunion of the British colonies. The population of New England alone was over 90,000, whereas that of Canada was

but 12,000. There were too many regulations, too many officials, and too many priests at Quebec to invite emigrants; and the settlement was composed in great measure of old soldiers who had received grants of money and land to induce them to stay in the country. Moreover, the young Canadians did not love agriculture, but preferred to fish and shoot and trap, and live the wild life of the forest. Lastly, the garrison alone numbered 1,500 men. Here, therefore, was a compact little force of men, one and all well trained for irregular warfare, all under a single chief, and the chief a capable officer. The British, on the other hand, knew little of the forest and, except on the outermost frontiers, little of self-defence and little of war. In earlier days there had been officers among them who had served many campaigns; but all military spirit, instilled by these, had long ago died out. They knew soldiers only as red-coated monsters, who taught ingenious youth to "drat, drink, blaspheme, curse and damn." They had their daily work on the soil and wished to be allowed to prosecute it in peace, as though they were in England with the sea around them. If an enemy came near their own sacred home they would turn out and fight doggedly, and they would do the like for their own immediate neighbors. But an adjacent, still more a remote, province was no affair of theirs. So they reasoned, and so reasoned the little assemblies who guarded the public purse, blindly and selfishly, and not without Pharisaic comment on the godless traders of New York. Wherefore James, in desperation, swept the assemblies away, put New York and New England under a single military governor, and bade him make an end of French aggression.

The preparations for the campaign were complete. The Iroquois had been let loose and spread terror to the gates of Montreal, when news came of the landing of William of Orange in England, and every military disposition was reversed. Massachusetts rose in revolution, imprisoned the Governor and cancelled the whole of his military dispositions. The other provinces followed suit. New York was for months under the tyranny of a ruffianly Walloon. Everything was forgotten in the madness of political and religious excitement, except the fall of the Papist King. But in Canada an able and active Governor, Count Frontenac, saw his opportunity, unleashed his Indians and made every preparation for an advance upon New York. Fortunately he was unable to carry out his full plan; but his Indians had free play upon the undefended frontier and made a wholesale massacre of all the outlying settlers. This brought the colonies more or less to their senses, and in the following year, 1690, New York and New England concerted a grand attack, with local levies by sea and by land, upon Quebec. The command of the expedition by sea was entrusted to a disreputable old ship's carpenter, who had made a fortune by recovering wrecked treasure; and its failure was complete and ignominious. The

expedition by land broke down hopelessly for want of proper organization for transport and supply. New York cried out loudly to Whitehall for help, and in 1693 orders were issued for the various colonies to send each a certain contingent of men to join a British fleet in an attack upon Quebec. The British fleet came too late; the colonial contingent was not ready for it even when it arrived, and the whole project came to a ridiculous end. The war continued with raid and counter-raid, chiefly to the advantage of the French. Frontenac again and again entreated his master to send a fleet to capture New York and end the whole contest; but Louis most fortunately had too much on his hands to spare either ships or men. Finally the peace of Ryswick brought a truce to hostilities in 1697. By that time even the haughty Massachusetts had been brought to her knees, and had written to Whitehall in abject terms for help in the reduction of Canada, "the unhappy fountain from which issue all our miseries." It never occurred to her that the root of all the trouble lay in the selfishness, jealousy and indiscipline of the British colonies.

The truce came to an end in 1702, and the old story was repeated. The French Indians burst upon the British frontier with fire and sword; but nothing could induce the colonies to combine for united action against the common enemy. Massachusetts attempted an attack upon Acadia single-handed, and again failed ignominiously; and at last the colonies turned once more to Whitehall and entreated the Mother Country for help. Queen Anne lent a gracious ear and promised to send a fleet; and for once the colonial contingent was ready. But the British fleet came not; for the disaster of Almanza had upset all the calculations of the British ministry. In the following year, 1710, however, a joint expedition from England and the colonies succeeded in capturing Nova Scotia, which thenceforward remained in English hands. Finally, in 1711, a really powerful armament sailed from England to the St. Lawrence under incompetent commanders, who abandoned the enterprise with disgraceful readiness, after losing eight transports wrecked and 700 men drowned. These little affairs have been forgotten, and it is natural that we should try to put such humiliating incidents out of sight. To the present writer, however, it has fallen to study very minutely the relations of the American colonies towards Canada during the 17th and 18th centuries; and the study has not always increased his admiration of his own countrymen.

The Peace of Utrecht secured Acadia nominally to England; but the French still pursued their old policy of erecting forts at every strategic point to cut off the British from the interior, not hesitating even to build them upon British territory. The colonies raved and blustered, but preferred quarrelling with each other to any effectual step for their own defence. Nevertheless, the steady industry of the British settlers was beginning to make them formidable. They were prosperous, they had multiplied greatly, and from sheer numbers they bade fair to outnumber and overwhelm all rivals. They began to spread inward from lack of space rather than from lust of adventure; and men who want room are more dangerous than men who want only empire. Canada, on the other hand, remained much as she had always been, a military settlement, cramped and bound by excessive regulation; and the situation demanded of her more than this, if French domination were to continue. Moreover, the French at this time made a great blunder. They built upon Cape Breton the fortress of Louisbourg as a base for future aggression against the coasts of Nova Scotia and New England. It was difficult and costly to construct, and impossible to keep in repair; and, since it could not be provisioned from Cape Breton itself, it depended upon the command of the sea for its supplies. Thus it became not a source of strength, but a mere hostage to fortune; and the fact was no secret to the British admirals.

Nevertheless, it filled the New Englanders with rage and terror, and at the opening of the war of the Austrian succession it justified their apprehensions by sending forth an expedition which captured two of the British posts in Nova Scotia. But Massachusetts faced the misfortune in a bold spirit. With some difficulty she raised 4,000 men, and, with the help of a small British squadron, actually besieged and captured Louisbourg in the summer of 1745. The British Government sent three regiments to occupy it, and promised a large armament for an attack on Quebec in the following year. The colonial levies were ready, but the British force never appeared, having been diverted from its true purpose to a ridiculous raid upon the coast of France. Undismayed, the colonists projected further offensive operations; but now France, on her side, took the matter in hand and sent out a powerful armament to recapture Louisbourg. The alarm was great in New England; but she was saved by a violent storm on the coast of Nova Scotia which shattered the French fleet, and, coming as the climax of a voyage of disasters, killed the Commander-in-Chief and drove his successor to suicide. In 1747 a second great expedition sailed from the French ports, only to be met and defeated off Rochelle by a British fleet. Then came the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, whereby Louisbourg was restored to France in exchange for Madras. The colonies were frantic with indignation; but the men at Whitehall were right, for they recognized that Louisbourg belonged to the nation that was the stronger at sea.

## The Wonders of the Wireless Age



late the science of wireless electricity, if, indeed, it can be called a science, has made some remarkable developments, and there is a prospect that Marconi's achievements will be surpassed by those of Valdemar Poulsen, who has been astonishing people in England with his wireless telephone. At the time that everyone was talking of the wonders of liquid air, Hans Knudsen was a foremost figure, so the Danish experimenter needs no introduction to the public. Mention of liquid air, perhaps, is not the happiest way to begin an account of Knudsen and the wireless typesetting machine, for we all remember when liquid air was heralded as about to revolutionize a great many processes. The years have passed and liquid air remains a toy of the laboratory, with few, if any, practical uses. That his wireless discoveries will share the same fate is not a thought that would be tolerated by Mr. Knudsen, and it would be ill-mannered to remind him of all he said about liquid air.

Knudsen claims to have solved the mystery of sending photographs and sketches almost any distance by electricity without wires. Some months ago the Toronto Mail and Empire printed a portrait that had been transmitted a long distance by means of a telegraph wire, so that the idea of telegraphed photographs is not exactly new. Knudsen, however, claims to be able to do without the wires what has hitherto been considered sufficient of a marvel with them. The essential details of his new invention he keeps to himself, of course, and a description of it reads very much like an account of the apparatus used for the transmission of the picture in the Mail and Empire. There are two machines, one for transmitting the picture, and one for receiving it. The former has a traveling carrier, on which the picture is fastened. Over the traveling table is the tracing needle, which is constantly moving backward and forward over the picture, and according to the rough and smooth surface of the picture the electric impulses are transmitted. The machine at the other end is similar, a sensitized needle moving over a plate of smoked glass in harmony with every move of the transmitting needle. One is practically a shadow of the other, and the result is the picture.

The chief, if not the only, practical use for such an invention as the telegraphed picture, whether by wire or otherwise, is in newspaper work. For instance, if King Edward were to die suddenly, the correspondent of the Mail and Empire in London could telegraph over his Majesty's picture, and it would appear in the paper with the announcement of the death. This is no doubt, a wonderful improvement over the present day method, whereby the paper would not receive the picture on the day of the death, but several years before it. However, there are a great many portraits used in a newspaper that cannot be secured in advance, from the fact that the subject of them does not attain any celebrity until the very day on which the telegraph wires make him a person of importance. No doubt the police would be greatly aided by a process that would send from New York to Toronto a portrait of a criminal wanted with the telegram that asked for his apprehension. By making a newspaper more interesting and by the better protection afforded society in the arrest of known criminals, the Knudsen invention has a claim on the attention of the public.

Hand in hand with his wireless method of sending photographs is the Knudsen plan of operating a typesetting machine by wireless telegraphy. He has already given tests, of the remarkable apparatus that sets type with the operator a couple of miles away; but it is not very plain where the invention will affect the newspapers. It might enable the compositor to sit at home and do their work, which would not be an unimproved blessing to their families; but it would not make the news any fresher or more accurate, and it would make it more expensive. The scheme appears to have fewer possibilities than liquid air, which has been unusually barren in results. Mr. Knudsen has shown, however, even though his two inventions are of small practical importance, that Marconi did not exhaust the wireless method when he set up his two famous stations, one on either side of the Atlantic, and proceeded to talk across nearly 3,000 miles of water.

Of vastly more importance to mankind than the transmission of photographs by wireless, and the operation of a typesetting machine at a distance, is Valdemar Poulsen's wonderful results with the wireless telephone.

It is reported from England that he has spoken at a distance of 300 miles, and that every word has been distinctly heard. On this side of the Atlantic the record is 125 miles. The voyage of the American fleet was the occasion of some interesting experiments with the wireless telephone, and orders and messages were successfully transmitted to a distance of more than 30 miles. The wireless telephone may be regarded as an established fact, and as the cost of equipment is so small it may be hailed as a boon to humanity. When the invention is put on a commercial basis there will be few people so poor that they cannot afford to have a telephone in the house. As to its possibilities, one has only to shut his eyes and think.

### IS THERE TOO MUCH NEWS?

"Men can be well-informed who do not spend five minutes a day on their paper," writes a correspondent of Young Men. "George Crabbe was thoroughly alive to the loss of time and opportunity that they incurred. Sir Walter Scott eschewed them altogether, but maybe he was satiated with romance. A well-known political leader of today has declared (perhaps hyperbolically) that he never sees a paper. Who would deny the mental equipment of such men as these? A news sheet of I do not question, but that a young man should be supplied with six or seven editions daily is to his disadvantage, unless each issue is warranted by some occurrence of national import. It develops a habit of trivial reading, and the habit becomes tyrannical."

"Speaking at the annual Easter conversation in connection with St. John's Church, Boscombe, the vicar, the Rev. E. J. Kennedy, says the Telegraph, 'asked ladies to use a little common sense in the matter of wearing apparel.' It was no use to sit in a church in a heavy coat and complain of feeling faint in consequence of the temperature of the place. They would not sit in their drawing rooms in sealskin jackets, and they should do the sensible thing in church—they should either take off their cloaks or not wear such thick garments."

FLY-FIS



below the great Col country to than that take his f

Today, the world sound, very British Co

In Eng getting li nothing n ways are mystery a of our Pa a subject men as to the bundle sent to mon fly; known to them are when so posed the his lordsh it. Also ant sport to endure day.

In Br salmon is sock-eye, lowly dog he be a st himself w

Now a were for but one t them by the same, sea in con eyes were valuable if

It seem that it is with the alusion was will not t

Of late our fish interesting we know, surrounde there is a Why is it that our c with rotti of differ limited to like the b brings ea back to t seems no much my of life an it has m there is o that is th up practi to hold f only.

For in our rivers for no ob ous thro congrega same giv caught w and seve Island co mouths though the humphac