

the French Canadian race and in the presence of those whose hearts are with us; and in order to show that we are perhaps not unworthy of the friendship of our Celtic brothers I shall remind them of a few of the noble deeds performed by our great ancestors.

The beautiful St Lawrence beheld the white men for the first time when, in 1535 Jacques Cartier sailed up the limpid waters of that majestic stream to where the commercial metropolis of Canada now stands on the island of Montreal. Settlements were soon planted on its shores, and Canada rose to be an important colony.

It has been said that Spain came to Canada to seek for gold; England to enlarge her possessions, and France, to spread the knowledge of the Gospel. From the first the French monarchs manifested the greatest anxiety for the conversion of the aborigines and all the charters granted to trading companies contained stipulations concerning the bringing out to this country of priests to attend to the spiritual welfare of the colonists and to bring the natives under the gentle influence of the christian doctrine.

Canada was then under the direct rule of the King of France, who governed it through his representative. Among the vice-roys sent here were men of the noblest blood of France, men whose names are sufficient to remind us of the glorious days of ancient chivalry. The name of Frontenac alone recalls all that is gallant and great in warrior and statesman.

Another name of undying fame is that of Samuel de Champlain. He was the first great Canadian explorer, the first European to behold our vast inland seas, Lakes Ontario and Huron, and the beautiful lake that bears his name.

I come now to the great Montcalm. When we consider how the home government failed to help him, we are astonished that he found the means to offer such strenuous and

long-continued resistance to his ever-increasing enemies. But like Lally, Baron of Tolendal, the great soldier of Irish descent who was the most famous general the French ever had in India, Montcalm accomplished wonders. Lally with a force of only seven hundred men at the siege of Pondichery, resisted, during the space of five months, twenty thousand disciplined English troops; and while he was performing these prodigies in India, Montcalm with only three thousand six hundred men on the battle-field of Carillon routed an English force of sixteen thousand. But Hannibal had his Zama, Napoleon his Waterloo. So Lally had his Pondichery, and Montcalm his Plains of Abraham. The English had conquered Quebec but DeLevis yet lived, and while he was in the field the country still belonged to France.

He prepared to make a last gallant stand for the Fleur de Lis, but having only three thousand five hundred ill-fed, poorly-clad, and worse-armed troops to oppose a large English army backed by a detachment of the British navy, he was compelled to capitulate.

This closed French rule in Canada—"a rule remarkable throughout for noble deeds worthy of the gallant nation whose sons performed them."

Many French families decided to return to the land of their fathers, preferring their own sunny skies and French government to our ruder climate and English rule. Those who remained have become loyal British subjects, and consider that under the broad canopy of heaven there is no land like the land of the Maple Leaf.

Passing over the period of military rule which succeeded the Treaty of Paris; passing also over that period which led up to the Quebec Act, we come to the heroic deeds performed by French Canadians in the defence of their country against invasion from the South. Who is he with French blood in his veins that can forget Chateaugay, where De Salaberry with