

Introduction to First Contest

FROM the city end of the Dufferin Terrace, possibly from under one of its several kiosks, the whole plan of Wolfe's first attempt to bring Montcalm out into the open for battle can be read from the landscape, beginning with the little parish church of Petronille on the Island of Orleans, where was the first camping-ground of the British troops, and where the British general first directed his field-glass against the long line of the city's defences up from the Beauport beach. When the tidings were carried to Quebec that the British were on their way up the river, the authorities of the place made hurried preparations to present a fortified front to the invaders; and, though Montcalm's suggestion, to fortify the approaches to the rear as well as on both sides of the river, was over-ruled, on the plea that the British vessels were not likely to run the gauntlet of the Citadel batteries and those lower down on the front of the cliff, everything was done that could be done in the time to strengthen the approaches by way of Beauport and the river front. Indeed, the walls of the city, except down by Palace Gate, had been left in a state of neglect from the time of the first Vaudreuil. And, seeing that no reliance was to be placed in their condition to resist a siege, it was decided by the French that the entrance to the