

"Regn., Vinc., Imp., Chrs." In a footnote to one of the beautiful Canadian Idylls, our poet says, "the interpretation of which inscription admits of as much ambiguity as a Delphic oracle," but in the ballad it is expressed Regnat, Vincit, Imperat, Christus.

An extract from the Gen. Lee papers, published by the New York Historical Society, gives a picture *couleur de rose* of this spot, two weeks after the fort was taken. "Gen. Lee to Wm. Bunbury, Niagara, Aug. 9th, 1759,"—after an allusion to the capture of the Fort: "The situation of this place and of the country around it are certainly most magnificent. It stands on Lake Ontario, at the mouth of Niagara river, eighteen miles from the Great Falls, the most stupendous cataract in the known world. Had I a throat of brass and a thousand tongues, I might attempt to describe it, but without them it certainly beggars all description. The country resembles Eckworth Park, if not surpasses it. For an immense space around it is filled with deer, bears, turkeys, raccoon, in short all game. The lake affords salmon and other excellent fish. But I am afraid you will think I am growing romantic, therefore shall only say it is such a paradise and such an acquisition to our nation that I would not sacrifice it to redeem the dominions of any one electoral province of Germany from the hands of the enemy."

In Sir William Johnson's administration of Indian affairs we have many glimpses of Fort Niagara and of the places around. The common, now the Military reserve, on this side of the river, was an Indian encampment for Six Nations to receive annual gifts and allowance from Commissioners for British Government. The Indians were proud that they were the *allies* not the *subjects* of the British king. From Fort Niagara, in 1763, marched troops to Fort Schlosser with stores—marched alas, only to meet their death. The larger party, which was sent to their relief, met the same fate. The plan conceived and carried out by Indians to massacre them at a particular spot, where a careless guard would be at the mercy of a hidden foe, was only too successful. Only a few escaped to tell the tale of this plan, bold and skilful in formation, masterly in execution, gained, as so many Indian attacks, by secret and deadly ambuscade. The spot has since been called the Devil's Hole.