

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

THE work of Captain John Knox is well known to students of the last struggle between France and England for North America; but it is known to few besides. The book has become very rare, for, since its first issue, nearly a century and a half ago, it has never until now been reprinted. It has great intrinsic interest, and is specially important as a record of the military transactions connected with the siege and capture of Louisbourg and of Quebec.

Not much is known of the author. John Knox was the third son of John Knox, merchant, of Sligo, Ireland,<sup>1</sup> who, according to a memorial of Jane Knox,<sup>2</sup> "Was always distinguished for Revolution principles and a Warm Fidelity to the House of Hanover." Of the early history of the author of the *Journal* nothing has been found. We know of his family only the bare fact that an uncle, who became a clergyman, had been educated at Strabane by a Mr. Ballantine, and that this uncle matriculated at Trinity College, Dublin, as a pensioner student. John Knox served as a volunteer in the war which ended in 1748, and for his gallant conduct at Val was presented by H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, in 1749, with an Ensigny in the 43rd Regiment of Foot. Ensign Knox was married in 1751 to Jane Carre, a lady of the city of Cork,<sup>3</sup> who appears to have had an independent fortune. The money, however, was placed in the hands of a trustee, who became

<sup>1</sup> Registry of Deeds Office, Dublin, vol. 165.

<sup>2</sup> *Memorial of Jane Knox, Widow of Captain Knox*, May 26, 1878. Public Record Office, W.O., 1, vol. 927.

<sup>3</sup> Record Office, Dublin. *Index of Marriage License Bonds*.