

36 THE GREATEST EVENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY

And now there's passive heed of call, Townshend
the first to obey,
With the wind and rain benighting the deepening
grey of day:
The bateaux soon are laden with Murray's men
on board,
The Royals and the Grenadiers,³¹ with shame
within them stirred:
Nor was there purpose of pursuit, no sign of dire
retreat,
Only imprudence suffering check, with glory from
the feat.

It seems the general's orders—Montcalm's and
Wolfe's alike—
Were overlooked throughout the day from impul-
siveness and pique—³²
The Grenadiers, in hazard outrunning all restraint,
The crossing of the ford above delayed by envy's
plaint—
But the "might have been" ne'er amplifies the
facts of history,
To turn the scale when the balance weighs the
eclat of bravery.

The escapade was prelude to the issue of the war,
But the testing of a purpose with victory still afar:
The fame of Montcalm claims foresight, as com-
panion to his skill,
While Wolfe's renown for prudence is a best in
courage still:
Yea, such prelude, like the victory, gives us tab-
leau of the twain,
As a brave man and a brave man, under heroic
strain.