

young gentleman - volunteer from Virginia, and there contracted the fatal illness which subsequently carried him off. His death resulted in the family estates passing to George, and making him comparatively early in life sufficiently wealthy to follow his own tastes and inclinations. If George Washington had remained a younger son it is most unlikely he would have been available in 1775 to have stepped into the chief command. He might have been anything and in any place, a pioneer on the frontier possibly, or more likely holding a commission in the English army; but the choice of the confederate colonies and ready to their hand for leader he almost certainly would not have been. And without George Washington the very struggle itself in which he triumphed seems an inconceivable thing. Colonel Wolfe, however, was made of tougher fibre than Laurence Washington. He passed unharmed through the luckless enterprise, was sent in charge of the sick and wounded to Cuba, and did not reach home again till the autumn of 1742.

In the meantime affairs had progressed with his son James. Two years more schooling and renewed health had brought him nearer to the goal of his ambition. Much of his holiday time was spent in visits to his friends at Squerryes, and it was there in the Christmas holidays of 1741-42 that his boyish hopes and aspirations were finally gratified. He was playing in the garden with his friend George Warde, when a package containing a commission to his father's regiment of Marines was put into his hands. In after years, when England was ringing with his fame and glorious death, the spot upon which he was standing at a moment of such significant import to himself and to his country seemed to his old