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CANADIAN HISTORY.

Beaujeu, the Victor at Braddock's Defeat.

The battle of the Monongahela, as the French more properly style the action fought between the English and French near Fort Duquesne on the 9th July, 1755, has always been and probably always will stand in our annals as Braddock's Defeat. The victory to which that general went so confidently, the extent and equipment of his army, the finest ever sent by England to America, the haughty superiority of the regulars over the provincials, all made the terrible and sudden disaster a thing to link for ever with the name of the hapless general rather than a battle; and national pride was flattered by an epithet that perpetually punished the guilty commander, paraded on the scaffold of public opinion as Byng had been on a real one.

The battle-field still goes by the name of Braddock's field, and with Germantown and Gettysburg makes the three great battle-fields of the Keystone State.

It is somewhat remarkable that, though Braddock's expedition has, within a few years, been made the subject of a monograph constituting a stately octavo, so little has been done to investigate the French accounts, or the life and career of the petty French officer who, with a handful of Canadian militia and Indians, routed the finest English army ever sent beyond the Atlantic to astonish the provincials and annihilate the French.

A little volume in Mr. Shea's Cramoisy series contains all the French accounts of the battle, with a brief memoir of the French commander, whose family still exist in Canada, holding prominent positions in the government of a province divided from Pennsylvania by an imaginary line.

The general events are well known. As part of the scheme for

the conquest of Canada Braddock was to advance with a considerable army from Virginia on Fort Duquesne, which dilapidated, almost ungarriioned, seemed a certain prize, and every preparation was made to celebrate with due exuberance of joy the triumph of Britannic power.

M. de Crevecoeur, a Canadian officer, had for some time commanded the fort, but had been relieved by Daniel Hyacinth Mary Lienard de Beaujeu, a Captain in the Marines, all the land troops in the French colonies being of this arm, as Canada and other transatlantic possessions of France depended on the naval department, causing incongruities not without their parallel in our day and country.

As Captain Beaujeu fell in the action, no official report was apparently made, and the accounts which reached Quebec, and which, forwarded to France, formed the basis of the account printed at the Louvre, speak incorrectly of Crevecoeur as commander of Fort Duquesne, but the register kept by the chaplain of the fort, Friar Denis Baron, a Franciscan, who was one of the first to chant the service of Rome in the "Chapel of Our Lady's Assumption on the Beautiful River," and a journal of Mr. Godefroy, an officer in the fort, and an account of the War Department, concur in calling Mr. de Beaujeu commandant of the fort and of the forces there.

Beaujeu belongs to the family of the Naval officer whose disagreement with La Salle contributed to the unhappy result of that explorer's attempt to reach the mouth of the Mississippi, and was born at Montreal, August 9, 1711: his father, also a captain, having been for a time King's Lieutenant at Three Rivers.

His son Daniel had won the cross of a Knight of St. Louis, and for a time commanded at Niagara. When placed temporarily in Fort Duquesne he saw that it could not stand a siege. Extravagance and corruption, such as we know too well, had made the fort a costly affair to the French king, without rendering it a formidable work to an English force.

To await Braddock's approach was therefore madness, but Beaujeu, full of the pride of a French officer, resolved to attack the English General on the way, and if possible ambuscade the line of his march. From the influence which, during a long service on the frontiers, he had acquired over the Indian tribes, he had little doubt of his ability to gather a considerable number around him for the attempt. On the fifth of June they had learned of Braddock's departure from Will's Creek, and as the month advanced small parties brought tidings of his approach. On the eighth of July the two brothers de Normanville came in with tidings that the enemy were only eighteen miles off.

While Braddock thus, almost at the end of his march, meeting no opposition, was doubtless congratulating himself on a bloodless victory and a successful campaign, Beaujeu was forming his last plan for an attack on the invader, resolved to die on the field rather than surrender the fort. He now called the war chiefs to a council. Despite the influence which he had acquired by long years spent in service with them, he found them reluctant. The notes of English preparation, the reports of scouts and runners, the expe-