

## THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

By J. M. LeMOINE.

(Concluded.)

And within little more than an hour's march of the Plains, he could not honorably have remained inactive while believing that only a part of the enemy's force was in possession of such vantage ground; and neither the dictates of prudence (1) nor his own chivalrous spirit and loyal regard for the national honor, would permit him to betray a consciousness of weakness by declining the combat, on finding himself unexpectedly confronted by the whole of Wolfe's army. Relying, doubtless, on the prestige of his victories during the campaign of the preceding year (1758) in which he had been uniformly successful, and in which, at Ticonderoga, with four thousand men he had defeated General Abercromby at the head of nearly four times that number—he endeavored by a confident bearing and encouraging expressions (2) to animate his troops with hopes which he himself could scarcely entertain; and though almost despairing of success, boldly resolved to attempt, by a sudden and vigorous onset, to dislodge his rival before the latter could intrude himself in his commanding position, and it is surely no blot on his fame that the superior discipline and unflinching steadiness of his opponents, the close and destructive volley (3) by which the spirited but disorderly advance of his battalions was checked, and the irresistible (4) charge which completed their confusion, rendered unavailing his last gallant effort to save the colony; for to borrow the words of the eloquent historian of the *Peninsular War*, "the vicissitudes of war are so many that disappointment will sometimes attend the wisest combinations; and a ruinous defeat, the work of chance, close the career of the boldest and most sagacious of Generals, so that to judge of a commander's conduct by the event alone is equally unjust and unphilosophical."

In the remarkable letter addressed to his cousin, M. de Mole, *Premier Président au Parlement de Paris*, and dated "from the camp before Quebec, 22nd August, 1758,"—a fortnight before the battle—MONTCAUM thus pathetically described how hopeless would be his situation in the event of Wolfe effecting a landing near the city: and, with a firm heart foretold his own fate.

"Here I am, my dear cousin, after the lapse of more than three months still contending with Mr. Wolfe, who has incessantly bombarded Quebec with a fury almost unexampled in the attack of any place which the besieger has wished to retain after its capture."

"Nearly the whole of the Lower Town has been destroyed by his batteries, and of the Upper Town a great part is likewise in ruins. But even if he leaves not one stone upon another, he will never obtain possession of the capital of the colony whilst his operations continue to be confined to the opposite side of the river."

"Notwithstanding all his efforts during these three months, he has hitherto made no progress towards the accomplishment of his object. He is ruining us, but without advantage to himself. The campaign can scarcely last another month, in consequence of the near approach of the autumnal gales, which are here so severe and so disastrous to shipping."

"It may seem that, after so favorable a prelude, the safety of the colony can scarcely be doubtful. Such, however, is not the case, as the capture of Quebec depends on a *coup-de-main*. The English have entire command of the river; and have only to effect a landing on this side, where the city without defences is situated. Imagine them in a position to offer me battle which I could no longer decline, and which I ought not to gain."

"Indeed, if M. Wolfe understands his business he has only to receive my first fire, give a volley in return, and then charge; when my Canadians—undisciplined, deaf to the sound of the drum, and thrown into confusion by his

onset—would be incapable of resuming their ranks. Moreover, as they have no bayonets with which to oppose those of the enemy, nothing would remain for them but flight; and then—behold me beaten without resource."

"Conceive my situation! a most painful one for a General-in-Chief, and which causes me many distressing moments."

"Hitherto, I have been enabled to act successfully on the defensive; but will a continuance in that course prove ultimately successful? That is a question which events must decide! Of this, however, you may rest assured, that I shall probably not survive the loss of the colony. There are circumstances which leave to a General no choice but that of dying with honor; such may soon be my fate; and I trust that in this respect posterity will have no cause to reproach my memory."

MONTCAUM, conspicuous in front of the left wing of his line, and WOLFE, at the head of the 28th Regiment and the Louisbourg Grenadiers, towards the right of the British line, must have been nearly opposite to each other at the commencement of the battle, which was most severe in that part of the field; and, by a singular coincidence each of these heroic leaders had been twice wounded during the brief conflict before he received his last and fatal wound.

But the valiant Frenchman, regardless of pain, relaxed not his efforts to rally his broken battalions in their hurried retreat towards the city, until he was shot through the loins, when within a few hundred yards of St. Louis Gate. And so invincible was his fortitude that not even the severity of this mortal stroke could abate his gallant spirit or alter his intrepid bearing. Supported by two grenadiers—one at each side of his horse—he re-entered the city; and in reply to some woman who, on seeing blood flow from his wounds as he rode down St. Louis street, on his way to the chateau, (5) exclaimed *Oh, mon Dieu! mon Dieu! le marquis est tué!*—he courteously assured them that he was not seriously hurt, and begged of them not to distress themselves on his account. *C'est rien! Ce n'est rien! Ne vous affligez pas pour moi, mes bonnes amies.* The last words of WOLFE—imperishably enshrined in history—excite, after the lapse of a century, the liveliest admiration and sympathy; and similar interest may, perhaps, be awakened by the narrative of the closing scene in the eventful career of his great opponent.

On the 24th March, 1761, the French troops who had served in Canada under Montcalm, through M. de Bougainville, applied to the British Government for leave to raise a monument to the illustrious dead hero. The British Government, through Mr. Pitt, sent back to Paris on the 10th April, 1761, a graceful letter of acquiescence. The inscription had been prepared by the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*. Unfortunately the marble on which the inscription was engraved by some cause or other never reached Canada. However, in 1831, Lord Aylmer erected over the tomb of the Marquis, in the Ursuline Convent, a simple mural tablet of white marble, having the following concise and beautiful epitaph from his Excellency's own pen—

HONNEUR

a

MONTCAUM

Le Destin en lui dérochant la Victoire  
L'a récompensé par une mort glorieuse.

In the course of the following year (1832), there was also erected by his Lordship a small monument on the battle-field to indicate the spot where WOLFE expired; which structure, having become injured, has since given place to a pedestal and column about thirty-five feet high—either of the Tuscan or of the Doric order—surmounted by a Roman helmet, wreathed with laurel, and sword; both in bronze.

On two sides of the pedestal are inserted bronze panels, with inscriptions cast in bold relief; one of which thus briefly records the place, circumstances, and date of the conquering hero's death:—

Here Died

WOLFE

Victorious

September 13th, 1759.

The other is as follows:—

"This pillar was erected  
By the British Army in Canada, A. D. 1849:  
His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Benjamin

D'Urban,

G.C.B.; K.C.H.; K.C.T.S., &amp;c.,

Commander of the Forces,

To replace that erected by Governor-General

Lord Aylmer, G.C.B.,

Which was broken and defaced, and is deposited

underneath.

From the foregoing, all will admit that the Plains of Abraham must recall memories equally sacred to both nationalities inhabiting Quebec.

The 13th September, 1759, and the 28th April, 1760, are two red-letter days in our annals; the undying names of Wolfe and Montcalm claim the first; the illustrious names of Lewis and Murray the second.

In the September engagement Montcalm's right wing rested on the St. Foye road; his left on the St. Louis road, near the *Bâtiments Neveu* (Percut's Hill.)

(5) For a description of the spot where MONTCAUM expired, see *Album du Touriste*.

In the April encounter Murray's hardy warriors occupied the greatest portion of the north-western section of the plateau. His right wing rested on *Coteau Ste. Genevieve*, St. John Suburbs, and his left reached to the edge of the cliff, overhanging the St. Lawrence, near Marchmont. On the 13th September, the French began the fight; on the 28th April it was the British who fired first. Fifteen years later, in 1775, the Heights of Abraham for a short time became the camping ground of other foes. This time the British of New England were pitted against the British of New France; we all know with what result.

## BATTLEFIELD PARK.

The departure from our shores of England's red-coated legions, in 1872, amongst other voids, left waste, untenanted, and unoccupied, the historic area, for close on one century, reserved as their parade and exercising grounds on review days—the Plains of Abraham. This famous battle-field does not, we opine, belong to Quebec alone; it is the common property of all Canada. The military authorities, always so careful in keeping its fences in repair, handed it over to the Dominion, who made no provision for this purpose. On the 9th March, 1875, the Dominion Government leased it to the Corporation of the City of Quebec, for ten years of the lease, under which it was held from the Religious Ladies of the Ursulines of Quebec, provided the Corporation assumed the conditions of the lease, involving an annual rental of two hundred dollars.

The extensive conflagration of June last, which laid waste one-half of St. Louis Suburbs, and the consequent impoverished state of the municipal finances prevented the City authorities from voting any money to maintain in proper order the fences of the Plains. Decay, ruin and disorder were fast settling on this sacred ground, once moistened by the blood of heroes, when the citizens of Quebec spontaneously came to the rescue. No plan suggested to raise the necessary funds obtained more favor than that of planting it with some shade-trees, and converting it into a Driving Park. This idea well carried out would, in a measure, associate it with the everyday life of citizens of all denominations. Its souvenir, its wondrous scenery alone would attract thousands. It would be open gratis to all well-behaved pedestrians. (1) The fatigued tradesman, the weary labourer, may at any time saunter round and walk to the brink of the giddy heights facing Lévis; feast their eyes on the striking panorama unrolled at their feet; watch the white-winged argosies of commerce float swan-like on the bosom of the mighty flood, whilst the wealthy citizen, in his pannelled carriage, would take his afternoon drive round the Park *en passant*. The student, the scholar, the traveller might each in turn find here amusement, and fresh air and shade, and with sketch-book or map in hand, come and study, or copy the formation of the battle-field and its monument; whilst the city belle on her palfrey, or the youthful equestrian, fresh from college, might enjoy a canter round the undulating course in September on all days, except that Autumn week sacred to the turf, ever since 1789, selected by the sporting fraternity.

In November last, an association was formed, composed as follows: His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, His Worship the Mayor, Chief Justice Meredith, Hon. Judge Tessier, Hon. E. Chinic, Hon. D. E. Price, Chs. E. Levey, Hon. P. Garneau, Col. Rhodes, John Gilmour, John Burstall, Hon. C. DeLery, J. Bte. Renaud, Jos. Hamel, J. M. LeMoine, Hon. Thos. McGreevey, Hon. C. Allyn, C. F. Smith, A. P. Caron, Thos. Beckett, James Gibb, R. R. Dobell, with E. J. Meredith, Secretary. Hon. E. Chinic, and Messrs. C. F. Smith, and R. R. Dobell were named Trustees to accept for the nominal sum of \$1, the lease held by the City Corporation, the Corporation continuing liable for the annual rent of \$200. Though the late period of the season prevented the association from doing any thing, beyond having the future Park suitably fenced in, the praiseworthy object in contemplation has not been lost sight of, and active measures in furtherance of the same will be taken on the return of spring.

It would be unjust to close this hasty sketch without awarding a word of praise and encouragement to one of the most active promoters of the scheme, R. R. Dobell, Esq., of Beauvoir, Sillery.

Quebec, 1st January, 1877.

## CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

## No. 2. CONUNDRUMS.

1. Why should a race-horse be named Change for a Sovereign?
2. Why are laundresses the greatest travellers?
3. What man dare sit with his hat on before the Queen?
4. When do kings sleep five in a bed?
5. Spell the most favourite spirit in three letters?
6. How many sides has a circle?

(1) By Deed of Lease, before F. Tâtu, bearing date 1 Quebec, 22nd February, 1873, the Religious Ladies of the Ursulines lease to H. M. George III., accepting for him the Hon. John Criggle, Deputy-Governor General, the Plains of Abraham, containing 9½ acres in front and 80 acres and 24 perches in superfluous, at an annual rent of \$100, for ninety-nine years, &c., until 1st May, 1902. This portion alone will constitute the Park, a narrow belt of the Plains, where the new jail was built, was sold in 1841, to John Bonner, Esq. The extent intervening between belongs to the Seminary of Quebec and to the Religious Ladies of the Hotel-Dieu Nunnery, who also, in 1803, leased this portion to the Government on a ninety-nine years lease to expire the 1st May, 1902.

## No. 9. PUZZLES.

1. A gaudy thing, whose cuplike flower receives  
The dew which falls from summer's drooping leaves.
2. Required a word of seven letters and three syllables,  
which reads the same backwards and forwards.

## No. 10. CHARADE.

1.

What is that sound the silence breaks?  
'Tis martial music loud and clear;  
An army comes: the firm ground shakes  
With their measured tread, as my whole appear.

Their waving plumes, their helmets bright,  
Proclaim my second's in my first;  
My whole is, too, my first in fight,  
As headlong on the foe they burst.

2.

"Twas of my first the maiden died,  
When lover false her heart had broken,  
As fondly pressing to her side,  
She held that fond affection's token;  
Beneath its shade, the hungry wolf  
In howling packs his prey is seeking,  
While o'er the sea to bay of gulf,  
Its prisoned length is lowly creaking;  
While thousands, rapt, enjoy the tones  
Which through the theatre are ringing—  
My whole and second through all zones  
Their mead of rich perfume are flinging:  
The golden board of wealth adorning,  
The humble peasant's cot not wanting.

## No. 11. RIDDLES.

1. What is the difference between cake and wine?
2. A cough and a crossing.
3. A boy's name, a deer, and a preposition.
4. A bird and water.
5. Part of a body and water.

## No. 12. ENIGMA.

1.

I wave o'er mast and fort, and tower,  
O'er royal home from island tower;  
I'm known and feared o'er land and wave,  
The hope of freedom to the slave;  
Yet changed to stone behold me—  
Off, mate, your foot and hand to be,  
Sometimes my hour is in the stream,  
Where my gay yellow blossoms gleam;  
When dried, my withered form they take  
And into mats and baskets make,  
Four letters mine, cut off my head,  
Littering and slow becomes my tread.

2.

There is a certain natural production which exists from two to six feet above the surface of the earth. It is neither animal, vegetable, nor mineral; neither male nor female, but something between both. It has neither length, breadth, nor substance, is recorded in the Old Testament, and often mentioned in the New, and it serves the purpose of both treachery and fidelity.

## No. 13. DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

Two farmers, named Henri and John, one day  
For a week had determined a visit to pay  
To some place a portion of life far to see,  
But the thing to decipher was, "Where shall it be?"  
John thought, "Turnbridge Wells, where my first love  
would find."  
But Henri for *second* was mostly inclined,  
Or *third*, where Napoleon once used to be;  
Or *fourth*, where some gymastic capers they'd see,  
But John left *fifth* where he cared for to go,  
And thought of my *sixth* for a rail or a row;  
But he made up his mind to give London a call,  
Where the *eddy* *seventh* he saw in Guildhall,  
But the farmers at last getting tired of their game,  
Returned to their town, which the initials will name;  
And often amusement by *ninth* they found,  
When Christmas was near, and the snow on the ground.

## SOLUTIONS.

## No. 1. CONUNDRUMS.

1. When it potted. 2. Because pride must fall. 3. Because stars do not shine at night.

## No. 2. PUZZLES.

1. Summer. 2. Cuckoo. 3. Nightingale.

## No. 3. CHARADES.

Lippin.

## No. 4. RIDDLES.

1. Latin. 2. Fever. 3. Because it runs into oxen and hurts. (Oxen and Herts.)

## No. 5. ENIGMA.

Cricket.

## No. 6. ACROSTIC.

Roses—seeds.

## SCIENTIFIC.

RUSSIAN leather is the skin of the horse or calf tanned with the bark of the birch, which gives it that peculiar smell which is so grateful to the senses, and seems to preserve it from the attacks of insects.

IN a short time Mr. Holly, the well-known mechanical engineer, will attempt to heat the entire city of Lockport, N. Y., by steam. The city is divided into districts, and each district is to have its separate boiler. Mains from each boiler are run to the different houses, and all the occupants have to do is to turn a faucet and obtain all the heat he wants.

"GLACIARUM" is the name of the new skating rink provided for the Londoners through the ingenuity of Prof. Gamgee. He produces ice surfaces by passing currents of glycerine and water through metal tubes immersed in water. The ice is already an inch thick. Although London lies in a more northerly latitude than New York, frost rarely continues long enough there to form useful ice.

A WRITER in the *English Mechanic* states that many years ago he had occasion to frequently cross the Irish Channel, and was invariably sick on there being the least motion of the water. Once, however, when it was very rough, and the wind blowing a hurricane, he hit upon an expedient which proved an effectual preventive, that is, he made his respiration cadence punctually with the heave and fall of the vessel—as she rose, he inspired slowly and regularly, and as she fell he expired correspondingly, the effect being so completely successful as at several times to produce sleep. But each of these times—presumably because the breathing was not then synchronous with the vessel's movements—he was awakened by sensations of sickness, which two inspirations and expirations as above explained immediately dispelled, enabling him to complete a very rough passage with comparative comfort.

## DOMESTIC.

MILK.—Milk is said to be a substitute for soap in the kitchen. A little put into hot water will soften it, give the dishes a fine gloss, and what would be a boon to many, does not injure the hands.

(1) Montcalm when he heard that the English had ascended the hill and were formed on the high ground at the back of the town scarcely credited the intelligence, but he was soon undeceived. He saw clearly that the English fleet and army were in such a situation that the Upper and Lower Town might be attacked in concert, and that nothing but a battle could save it. Accordingly he determined to give them battle.

The Annual Register for the year 1759.

(2) Local tradition relates that, on receiving, about 9 o'clock in the morning of the 13th September, the startling intelligence that the English were in possession of the Plains, MONTCAUM (hitching up his breech with both hands, as was his custom) briskly exclaimed, "If that be the case it is time we were hastening thither; for we must drive them into the river before noon!"

R. S. B.

(3) The English troops were exhorted to reserve their fire; and they bore that of the enemy's light troops in front (which was galling though irregular) with the utmost patience and good order, waiting for the main body of the enemy which advanced fast upon them. At forty yards distance our troops gave their fire, which took place in its full extent, and made a terrible havoc among the French.

The Annual Register for 1759.

General Wolfe ordered the men to load with an additional bullet which did great execution.

As soon as the French came within musket-shot they began to fire, but the British reserved their fire until the enemy were within twenty yards.

Bruton's Naval and Military Memoirs of Great Britain from 1729 to 1790.

(4) The Canadian militia (of which more than half of Montcalm's force consisted) were without bayonets.

MONTCAUM's Letter of 24th August, 1759.