

14 THE GREATEST EVENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY

length or two, to emphasize the marvel of this vantage-promenade of Quebec, which is about to be supplemented by one of the most spacious battlefield parks in the world, with its main drive running from the city across the tracts of land where were fought the Battle of the Plains and the Battle of Sainte-Foye, and back again by another route.

The promenade in question was opened to the public in 1879, by the Earl of Dufferin, then Governor-General of Canada. The Chateau St. Louis, which had been a residence for French governors and English governors for over two centuries, was accidentally destroyed by fire in Lord Aylmer's time; and, for all of four years, its walls begrimed with smoke stood as an eyesore near the spot where the striking Champlain monument now stands, within the shadow of the palatial Chateau Frontenac. To bury out of sight the ruins of this tough old structure, whose foundation walls are still to be traced, Lord Durham, who succeeded Lord Aylmer, suggested that a platform be raised over the spot; and, in 1838, in accordance with his further wishes, that platform was developed into a spacious promenade, overlooking the Old Parliament Building and the slope of Mountain Street. The writer interestingly remembers making his earliest observations of the magnificent harbour and its outer environment, and the quaint streets and buildings of the lower town, from that somewhat ruinous-looking prospect-point, in 1868, thirty years after it had first been opened to the public, and three years before it came into the ownership of the provincial and civic authorities for safe-keeping. Finally, under what was called the "Dufferin Improvement Scheme" for the