

Dr. Woodrow Wilson, President of Princeton University, in his history of the American people, after discussing the causes which led to the discontent of the American colonies, says: "Now that the French were driven out it was more useless than ever to argue the point. The chief and most obvious reason for feeling dependent upon the mother country was gone. All the British was gone too. The provincial levies raised in the colonies had fought alongside of Canadian troops and had found themselves not a whit less able to stand and fight, not a whit less needed in victory."

Sir George Trevelyan, in his history of the American Revolution, says: "So long as the English colonists had France for their neighbour harrassing them with raids, inciting the Indians to ravage their villages and building forts and block-houses up to the very edge of their frontier and sometimes even within it, they could not afford to dispense with the aid and protection of the mother country. But the French power had been uprooted from America, and England by her own act had destroyed the only check which kept her transatlantic subjects in awe, and if ever from that time forward she ill-treated or offended them they would reply by throwing off their dependence."

If then the judgment of the historians I have quoted is to be taken, the deciding incentive to the independence of the thirteen colonies was the British victory on the Plains of Abraham. Is it possible that to General James Wolfe rather than to General George Washington the American Republic owes its origin, and is it possible that the victory which won for Great Britain her vast Canadian possessions occupying half a continent, lost to her the other half of the continent and that the true shrine for the American is not Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed, not Mount Vernon where the remains of General Washington are entombed, but the heights behind Cape Diamond beneath which the St. Lawrence flows in silent and majestic grandeur? This seems to be the judgment of the historians. If so, how significant to the whole world as well as to America, was the event of September 18th, 1759! Soon the vestal fires of independence kindled by the brilliant achievements of General Wolfe blazed from Maine to Virginia, and soon the world learned that a new nation was born in the Western Hemisphere—a vigorous scion of British stock. With unprecedented energy it began its onward march to power and eminence, and millions from the old world have sought refuge under its sheltering wings. Follow this mighty current of influence and wealth, as we see it to-day, back to its source; back of