

firing between the town and our south batteries. By the time that our troops had taken a little refreshment, a quantity of intrenching tools were brought ashore, and the regiments were employed in redoubting our ground and landing some cannon and ammunition. The officers who are prisoners say that Quebec will surrender in a few days. Some deserters who came out to us in the evening agree in that opinion, and inform us that the *Sieur de Montcalm* is dying, in great agony, of a wound he received to-day in their retreat. Thus has our late renowned commander by his superior eminence in the art of war, and a most judicious *coup d'état*, made a conquest of this fertile, healthy, and hitherto formidable country, with a handful of troops only, in spite of the political schemes and most vigorous efforts of the famous *Montcalm*, and many other officers of rank and experience at the head of an army considerably more numerous. My pen is too feeble to draw the character of this *British Achilles*; but the same may, with justice, be said of him as was said of *Henry IV.* of France: *he was possessed of courage, humanity, clemency, generosity, affability, and politeness.* And though the former of these happy ingredients, how essential soever it may be in the composition of a soldier, is not alone sufficient to distinguish an expert officer, yet I may with strict truth advance that *Major General James Wolfe*, by his great talents and martial disposition, which he discovered early in life, was greatly superior to his experience in generalship, and was by no means inferior to a *Frederic*, a *Henry*, or a *Ferdinand*.

“When the matter matched his mighty mind,
Up rose the hero: on his piercing eye
Sat observation, on each glance of thought
Decision followed, as the thunderbolt
Pursues the flash.”

The strength of our army this day in the action will best appear by the following return, to which I shall subjoin that of the enemy as delivered to me afterward by an intelligent Frenchman.