

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 Frederick, a Henry, or a Ferdinand." What he accomplished was done in the years when the ordinary mortal is learning his business; he was to war what William Pitt, the son of the great commoner who sent him to Quebec, was later to politics, what Keats was to literature.<sup>1</sup> Self-educated to a very large extent alike in his profession and in letters, a right knowledge both of books and men came to him as by the sort of instinct which directs some men to their destination in strange localities where the majority would go astray. As Colonel Lambert told Warrington, Wolfe was "a good scholar as well as a consummate soldier"; and with it all there was about him "a simplicity, a frankness, and a sort of glorious bravery," to quote Warrington himself, which made it as natural for him to command troops of friends as to command his seniors in the field. Smollett truly said—

"Had his faculties been exercised to their full extent by opportunity and action, had his judgment been fully matured by age and experience, he would, without doubt, have rivalled in reputation the most celebrated captains of antiquity." (2)

His moral courage went hand in hand with his physical: and surely physical courage is never greater than when it rises superior to such wracking pains and chronic ill-health as Wolfe's. "A delicate constitution, and a body unequal to that vigorous and enterprising soul that it lodged," said Edmund Burke.<sup>3</sup> He resisted nepotism and favouritism to the

<sup>1</sup> Beckles Willson: *Nineteenth Century*, Sept. 1908.

(2) *History of England* (1790 Edn.), vol. ii, p. 71.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Register*, vol. ii, p. 39.