

THE SIEGE OF LOUISBOURG IN 1758.

BY SIR JOHN BOURINOT, K.C.M.G., LL. D., LIT. D. (LAVAL).

In 1756, what is generally known in America as "The Seven Years' War" between France and England, was publicly proclaimed. In Europe, the four powers of France, Spain, Russia and Austria combined to crush the famous representative of Protestantism, Frederick the Great, whose sole ally was England. The results were most glorious for England and humiliating for her ancient rival. Frederick's victories prepared the way for the unity of Germany; while India, the United States, and the Dominion of Canada are the heritage of a war which drove France from the eastern and western hemispheres.

The prospect, for some months after the declaration of war, was gloomy in America. This brief account of a memorable event of the Seven Years' War is chiefly condensed from my "Cape Breton and its Memorials of the French Régime," now out of print. The reader may refer to all the authorities given in that book, which also appeared in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. IX., Sec. 2.

When that great imperial statesman, Pitt, was recalled to office in July, 1757, it was too late to prevent the humiliation of England through the incompetency of Holbourne, Loudoun and Webb, and the year closed with Montcalm triumphant on Lakes Champlain and Ontario. While the military genius of Frederick and the inspiring statesmanship of Pitt were successfully thwarting the ambitious plans of France and her allies in Europe, the English statesman, now first minister, also decided on a vigorous campaign in America. With that intuitive sagacity which he possessed for recognizing ability in others, he chose General Amherst, Admiral Boscawen, General Forbes, Lord Howe and Brigadier Wolfe, as most competent to retrieve the disaster which Loudoun and Holbourne had brought upon the English army and navy in America. He was forced, for the time being, by the strong influences around him, to retain General Abercromby at the head of one of the expeditions; but he hoped that the advice and popularity of Lord Howe would keep up the courage and