

ed his warrant as Master on May 10th, 1759, and sailed in the *Mercury*, to join the fleet under Sir Charles Saunders; then engaged, in conjunction with General Wolfe, in the reduction of Quebec. Here the peculiar talents of Mr. Cook were called into active operation. The buoys in the St. Lawrence had all been removed by the French at the first appearance of the English fleet, and it was essentially necessary that a survey should be made of the channels, and correct soundings obtained, to enable the ships to keep clear of the numerous shoals. By the recommendation of Captain Palliser, (afterwards Sir Hugh), this onerous duty was confided to Mr. Cook, who readily undertook it in a barge belonging to a 74. This could only be executed in many parts during the darkness of the night, on account of the enemy, and he experienced a narrow escape one night, when detected, his boat having been boarded by Indians in the pay of the French, and carried off in triumph, he and his companions getting away just in time to save their lives. *Through Mr. Cook's judicious arrangements, the fleet reached the Island of Orleans in safety*, and he afterwards surveyed and made a chart of the St. Lawrence, which, together with sailing directions for that river, were published in London.

It is not the number of killed and wounded that determines the general historical importance of a battle, nor would a full belief in the largest number which historians state to have been slaughtered in any of the numerous conflicts between Asiatic rulers make me regard the engagement in which they fell as one of paramount interest to mankind.

There are some battles, which claim an attention independently of the moral worth of the combatants on account of their enduring importance, and by reason of the practical influence on our own social and political condition, which we can trace up to those engagements, they have for us an abiding and actual interest, both while we investigate the chain of causes and effects by which they have helped to make us what we are and also while we speculate on what we