

I am persuaded, therefore, that this little book will prove generally acceptable; as, by a very plain and easy method, it leads the learner over the most difficult step to this useful and elegant acquirement.

The most striking difference between the English and French languages consists in the genders of their nouns. In English, we call a male by the masculine term, *he*; a female, by the feminine term, *she*; and anything inanimate by the neuter term, *it*. The French likewise call a male *he*, and a female *she*, as we do; but by a fault in the genius of their language, they have no neuter, but call every inanimate thing either *he* or *she*, making it masculine or femi-

they mistook our troops for a French detachment, and suffered them to pass. The historian remarks, that the consequence of discovery at that moment would have been the total destruction of the army. Here, then, we see that a British army was preserved, a glorious victory gained, and Quebec and all Canada secured to England, because an Englishman had learned French well. (a)

(a) The following account of this transaction is given by W. Smith, Esquire, in his recently published History of Canada:--

"Captain Donald McDonald, a very gallant officer of Fraser's Highlanders, commanded the advanced guard of the light infantry, and was consequently among the foremost on shore: as soon as he and his men gained the height, he was challenged by a sentry, and with great presence of mind, from his knowledge of the French service, answered him according to their manner: it being yet dark, he came up to him, told him he was sent there with a large command, and to call off all the other men of his party who were ranged along the hill, for that he would take care to give a good account of the B— Anglois, if they persisted. This finesse had the desired effect, and saved many lives."

B. D.

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