

THE BRIDGE OF LIFE.

The Bridge of Life looms o'er a murky stream,
That glides along in silence and in gloom,
And bears adown to never-ending doom
All mortals, void of virtue's vivid gleam,
Who headlong sink beneath its turbid waves,
The tottering arches, bending 'neath the throng,
That push and press their frantic way along,
Shake off the clust'ring crowds into their graves,
When o'er them sweeps the breath of Mighty God
As blows the blast upon the laden limb,
And hurls the rich fruit from the branches shoo
To rot and die upon the mouldy sod.
But though the souls dive downward in the dark,
When rudely shaken from the Bridge, below
The watching Angels moving to and fro,
And each one steering hers and there his barque
Celestial with a never-ceasing care,
Receive on board with joy each sinking one,
Who bears the saving seal set by the Son
Upon his brow in impress rich and rare,
Away at rapid rate they onward glide,
Above the waves, beneath the arches grim,
Until at last they hear the holy hymn
In Heavenly accents ring on every side—
"The welcome home." And then before the feet
Of Him, who ruleth all, each saved soul
Is set, while joyous anthems rise and roll
Through Heaven's high mansions from the Mercy seat.

C. E. JAKWAY

Stayer. Out.

THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

By J. M. LEMOISE.

"Among modern battle-fields," says Col. (now Lt. General) Beaton, "none surpass in romantic interest the Plains or Heights of Abraham." No Quebecker would have the hardihood to challenge the assertion of this able engineer officer, stationed here from 1849 to 1854, and who spared neither time nor pains, with the assistance of our historians and antiquarians, Ferland, Fairbairn and McGuire, to collect authentic information on this subject. Col. Beaton compiled a volume of historical notes, which he published in 1858, when stationed at Gibraltar.

At the present time, when the Plains are in process of transformation into an ornate Park, it may not be out of place to submit a succinct history of these renowned Heights.

The Plains of Abraham will ever be famous, as having witnessed, more than one century back, the deadly encounter of the then two leading nations of Europe—England and France—to decide the fate of Canada—one might say (by the series of events it led to) the destinies of North America.

Of this mighty duel, which crimsoned with human gore these green fields one murky September morning, in 1759—Smollett, Carlyle, Bancroft, Hawkin, Smith, Garneau, Ferland, Mills and other historians have vied with one another to furnish a graphic account. Of the origin of the name none until very lately could tell.

"Notwithstanding," adds Col. Beaton, "the world-wide celebrity of these Plains, it was not until very recently that the derivation of their name was discovered; and as it is still comparatively unknown, even in Canada, the following explanation of its origin will doubtless possess attractions for such as are fond of tracing to their sources the names of celebrated localities, and who may be surprised to learn that upwards of a century previous to the final conquest of Canada by the British arms, the scene of the decisive struggle for national supremacy in the northern division of the New World had derived its name from one who, if not a Scotchman by birth, would seem to have been of Scottish lineage. This apparently improbable fact will, however, appear less extraordinary when it is known that he was a sea-faring man; and when it is considered how close was the alliance and how frequent the intercourse which, for centuries before that period, had subsisted between France and Scotland.

"This individual, whose name was ABRAHAM MARTIN, is described in a small legal document, dated 15th August, 1646, and preserved among the archives of the Bishop's Palace, at Quebec, as (the King's) Pilot of the St. Lawrence; an appointment which probably conferred on its possessor considerable official rank; for we find that Jacques Quartier, or Cartier, the enterprising discoverer and explorer of the St. Lawrence, when about to proceed, in 1540, on his third voyage to Canada, was appointed by Francis I. Captain General and Master Pilot of the expedition which consisted of four vessels.

"That MARTIN was a person of considerable importance in the then infant colony of NEW FRANCE may also be inferred from the fact that, in the journal of the Jesuits and in the parish register of Quebec, he is usually designated by his Christian name only, *Maitre ABRAHAM*; as well as from the circumstance of Champlain, the distinguished founder of Quebec and Father of NEW FRANCE, having been god-father to one of ABRAHAM'S daughters (Hélène) and of Charles de St. Etienne, *Sieur de la Tour*, of Acadian celebrity, having stood in the same relation to MARTIN'S youngest son, Charles Amador.

"The earliest mention of MARTIN'S name occurs in the first entry in the parish register of Quebec, viz., on the 24th October, 1621; when his son Eustache, who died, shortly afterwards, was baptized by Father Denis, a Franciscan Friar. The second baptism therein recorded is that of his daughter Marguerite, which took

* THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM. Notes, original and corrected, by Lt. Colonel Beaton, Royal Engineers.—Glasgow: Printed at the Garrison Library Press, 1858. (This volume is very rare.)

place in 1624; and it is stated in the register that these children were born of the legitimate marriage of ABRAHAM MARTIN, surnamed or usually known as the *Scott "dit l'Ecossois."* Their family was numerous; besides Anne and other children born previously to the opening of the register in 1621, the baptism of the following are therein recorded:—

Eustache,	born in	1621.
Marguerite,		1624.
Marie,		1627.
Adrien,		1635.
Madeleine,		1640.
Barbe (Barbara),		1643.
Charles Amador,		1648.

who was the second Canadian raised to the priesthood, and became a canon at the erection of the Chapter of Quebec. As the reader will observe there is nothing to connect the Plains with that of the patriarch of *Genesis*. Nay, though our Scotch friend owned a family patriarchal in extent, on referring to the *Jesuits' Journal* we find, we regret to say, at page— an entry, according to which the "Ancient Mariner" seems to have been very summarily dealt with: in fact committed to prison for a delinquency involving the grossest immorality. The appellation of *Plains of Abraham* was formerly given by our historians to that extensive plateau stretching from the city walls to the Silly Wood, bounded to the north by the heights of land overhanging the valley of the St. Charles, and to the south by the *coin du cap* overlooking the St. Lawrence, whose many indentures form coves or timber berths, for storing square timber, &c., studded with deep water wharves.

The hill in St. John suburbs or ascent leading up from the valley of the St. Charles, where St. Roch has since been built, to the table-land above, was from time immemorial known as *COTE D'ABRAHAM*, Abraham's Hill. Why did it bear that name?

On referring to the Parish Register of Quebec, from 1621 to 1700, one individual only seems to have borne the name of Abraham, and that person is Abraham Martin, to whom under the appellation of *Maitre Abraham*, repeated reference is made, both in the Register and the *Jesuits' Journal*.

Abraham Martin, according to the documents quoted by Col. Beaton, owned in two separate lots—one of twenty and the other of twelve arpents—thirty-two arpents of land, covering, as appears by the subjoined Plan or Diagram copied from his work, a great portion of the site on which St. John and St. Louis Suburbs have since been erected. Abraham's property occupied, it would seem, a portion of the area—the northern section—which, for a long period, also went under the name of Abraham's Plains. It adjoined other land the Ursuline Ladies then owned, on *Côteau St. Louis*, closer to the city, when in 1667 (?) it was purchased by them; at that time, the whole tract, according to Col. Beaton, went under the general name of Plains of Abraham. Such appear to be the results of recent researches on this once very obscure question.

THE BATTLE FIELD.

Two highways, lined with country seats, forest trees or cornfields run parallel, at a distance varying from one to half a mile, leading into Quebec: the *Grande Allée*, or St. Louis and the St. Foye Road. They intersect from east to west the expanse nine miles in length from *Cap Rouge* to the city. These well-known chief arteries of travel were solidly macadamized in 1841. At the western point, looms out the oak and pine clad cliffs of a lofty cape—*Cap Rouge* or *Redcliffe*. Here, wintered, in 1541-2, the discoverer of Canada, Cartier and his followers; here, in 1543-4, his celebrated follower, Roberval, seems also to have sojourned during the dreary months of winter.

A small stream, at the foot of the cape, meanders in a north-westerly direction through St. Augustin and neighbouring parishes, forming a deep valley all round the cape. The conformation of the land has led geologists to infer that, at some remote period, the plateau, extending to Quebec, must have been surrounded on all sides by water. The *Cap Rouge* stream and St. Charles bring the outlets on the west, north and east. This area increases in altitude until it reaches the lofty summit of Cape Diamond, its eastern boundary. Nature itself seemed to have placed these rugged heights as an insurmountable barrier to invasion from the St. Lawrence. With the walls, bastions, and heavy city guns; with artillery in position on the *Cap Rouge* promontory; cavalry patrolling the Silly heights; a numerous army on the only accessible portion of the coast—Beauport, Quebec, if succeeded in time, was tolerably safe; so thought some of the French Engineers, though not Montcalm.

"The two engagements," says Chauveau, "that of the 15th September, 1759, and that of the 28th April, 1760, occupied nearly all the plateau hereinbefore described. The first, however, it would seem, was fought chiefly on the St. Louis road, whilst the second took place on the St. Foye road. Each locality has its monument; one erected in honor of Wolfe, on the identical spot where he fell; the other in 1855,

(2) Donation du 10 Octobre, 1648, et du 1er Février, 1652, par Adrien Duchesne à Abraham Martin, de 30 arpents de terre.

Concession du 16 Mai, 1650, par la Compagnie de la Nouvelle France, de 12 arpents de terre à Abraham Martin.

Vente du 1er Juillet, 1667, aux Dames Ursulines de Québec, par les héritiers d'Abraham Martin, d'un terrain contenant 32 arpents en superficie.

to commemorate the glorious fate of the combatants of 1760, where the carnage was the thickest, viz.: on the site where stood Dumont's Mill (a few yards to the east of the dwelling of J. W. Dunscomb, Esq.)

"The victory of 1759 was a fitting reward of Wolfe's valor, punished the infamies of the *Bigot regime* and withdrew Canada from the focus of the terrible chastisement which awaited France soon after—in the Reign of Terror—for her impiety and immorality. The victory of April, 1760, was a comforting incident—a species of compensation to a handful of brave and faithful colonists, for the crushing disaster which had befallen their cause, the preceding September. It was the crowning—though bootless victory—to the recent brilliant, but useless success of French arms at Carillon, Monongahela, Fort George, Ticonderoga, Beauport Plains. It was, moreover, the last title, added to numerous others, to the esteem and respect of their conquerors."

Of the second battle of the Plains, that of 28th April, 1760, called by some writers "The Battle of Ste. Foye," by others "The Battle of Silly Wood;" so bloody in its results, so protracted in its duration, we have in *Garneau's History* the first complete account, the historian Smith having glossed over with striking levity this "French Victory." The loss of the two rival Generals, at the Battle of the Plains, of September, 1759, though an unusual incident in warfare, was not without precedent. Generals Braddock and De Beaujeu, in 1755, had both sealed on the battle field their devotion to their country, with their blood on the shores of the Monongahela, in Ohio; in this case as in that of Wolfe and Montcalm, he whose arms were to prevail, falling first.

In 1759, everything conspired to transform this conflict into an important historical event. Even after the lapse of a century, one sometimes is fain to believe, it sums up all which Europe recollects of primitive Canada. The fall of Quebec did not merely bring to a close the fierce rivalry of France and England in America. It lent an immense prestige to Great Britain, by consolidating her maritime supremacy over France—a supremacy she then so highly prized. The event, after the discouraging news which had prevailed, was heralded all over England by the ringing of bells, and public thanksgiving. Bonfires blazed through the length and breadth of the land; it was a national victory, which King, Peers and Commons could not sufficiently extol, and still what has been the ultimate result? By removing the French power from Canada—the only counterpoise to keep down the restless and thriving New England colonies, New England, from being strong, got to be defiant. The surrender of Canada hastened the American Revolution. The rule of Britain soon ceased to exist in the New England Provinces; and later on, in 1810, by the abrogation of the right of search on the high seas, her maritime supremacy became a dead letter. As Mr. Chauveau has remarked, "if the independence of America meant the lessening of British prestige, it remains yet to be proved that France has benefited thereby."

How much of these momentous changes can be traced to the incidents (perhaps the treason of Bigot) (3), which made the scale of victory incline to British valor on the 13th September, 1759!

Those desirous of obtaining a full account of the two Battles of the Plains are referred, amongst other works, to "Quebec Past and Present." I shall merely borrow from Col. Beaton's very rare volume some details not to be found in the ordinary histories.

"It has," says Col. Beaton, "been alleged that MONTCALM in hastening to meet the British on an open plain, and thereby to decide, in a single battle, the fate of a fertile Province nearly equal in extent to one-half of Europe, was not only forgetful of his usual caution, but acted with culpable temerity."

Such action, however, proceeded from no sudden impulse, but from a noble resolve deliberately formed after the most mature consideration, and recorded some time previously.

Painfully convinced how little security the weak defences of the city could afford against the determined assault of well disciplined and ably led troops, he believed that however great the risk of meeting his daring adversary in the open field, this course was the only one that seemed to promise him any chance of success. Besides, he had immediately available a force numerically superior to that of the English General.

Montcalm's line was composed as follows, viz.:

	Regulars.	Militia.
Left Wing { The Royal Roussillon Regiment, a battalion of the marine, or colonial troops; and Canadian militia.....	1,300	2,500
Centre { The Regiments of Berne and Ginevra and militia.....	750	1,200
Right Wing { The Regiments of La Sarre and Langue doc, a battalion of the marine, and militia.....	1,600	400
	3,650	3,900

The total force, therefore, actually engaged, amounted (exclusive of Indians) to 7,520 men;

(3) A creature of Bigot, Capt. De Vugor, on the 13th September, 1759, after allowing his militia men to return home on leave, was in charge of the post at Wolfe-field, where Wolfe ascended after taking the captain prisoner; this was the key to the position. Ferland and other writers have imputed treason to De Vugor.

of these however, scarcely one-half were regular troops, on whom the brunt of the battle fell and almost the whole loss.

Wolfe's *field-state* on the morning of the 13th September, showed only 4,828 men of all ranks, from the General downwards; but of these every man was a trained soldier.

WARBURTON'S "Conquest of Canada"

BURLESQUE.

A GOOD BOY.—He was standing at the corner of Campau and Jefferson avenues when a policeman came along, and pointing to a box at his feet this good boy said:

"The farmer who lost that off his sleigh will feel awful ludd. I s'pose you'll take it to the station, won't you?"

"You are an honest boy," replied the officer. "Some boys would have lugged that box off home. 'Yes, I'll take it to the station.'"

It was a stout box, weighing over eighty pounds, and when the officer set it down in the station-house all his bones ached. Some said it was butter and some said cheese, and so it was opened. The contents were cobbles-stones. The officer ran all the way back, and he spent hours looking for the good boy, but without any luck. The g. b. knew his business.

BROWN'S MATRIMONIAL METHODS.—"Brown, I don't know how it is that your girls all marry off as soon as they get old enough, while none of mine can marry."

"Oh, that's simple enough. I marry my girls off on the buckwheat straw principle."

"But what is that principle? I never heard of it before."

"Well, I used to raise a good deal of buckwheat, and it puzzled me to know how to get rid of the straw. Nothing would eat it, and it was a great bother to me. At last I thought of a plan. I stacked my buckwheat straw nice, and built a high rail fence around it. My cattle, of course, concluded that it was something good and at once tore down the fence and began to eat the straw. I dogged them away and put up the fence a few times, but the more I drove them away the more anxious they became to eat the straw, and eat it they did, every bit of it. As I said, I marry my girls off on the same principle. When a young man that I don't like begins calling on my girls, I encourage him in every way I can. I tell him to come often and stay as late as he pleases, and I take pains to hint to the girl that I think they'd better set their caps for him. It works first-rate. He don't make many calls, for the girls treat him as coolly as they can. But when a young fellow that I like comes around, a man that I think would suit me for a son-in-law, I don't let him make many calls before I give him to understand that he isn't wanted around my house. I tell the girls, too, that they shall not have anything to do with him, and give them orders never to speak to him again. The plan always works first-rate. The young folks begin to pity each other, and the next thing I know they are engaged to be married. When I see that they are determined to marry I always give in and pretend to make the best of it. That's the way I manage it."

FASHION NOTES.

SOME French toilets are lined with cork for warmth.

The hair is still worn over the forehead. In Paris a high forehead is considered to be an abomination in nature! High foreheads and high cheekbones suit crinolines and boups. With the Grecian dress clinging to us as drapery on a statue, we must have a Grecian head-dress—that is, a covered and low forehead, and pending curls at the back.

WRISTLET parties are the latest. The ladies furnish the wristlets, and each pair is numbered. One of each pair with the number is put in a box, and is sold to the gentlemen by a committee, and corresponding wristlets with the numbers are worn by the ladies. The fun commences when each gentleman buys a wristlet and finds the owner of the mate to it, to whom he is to pay attention during the evening.

ARTISTIC.

HANS MAKART'S large historical painting, "Queen Caterina Cornaro Receiving the Homage of the Venetians," which was one of the chief features of the Art Department at the Centennial, has been bought for twenty-five thousand dollars by the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.

GUSTAVE DORE has brought back to Paris from Switzerland several important studies which he made among the mountains, almost in the cloud regions. He was accompanied by a number of hardy mountaineers who carried for him all the paraphernalia needed for painting pictures.

THE Byron Memorial Committee have now definitely decided to open a second competition for the proposed monument. They announce a public exhibition of the competing designs, to be held on June 1, 1877, upon the same conditions as those which regulated the exhibition recently closed.

A CERTAIN number of invalids, soldiers and officers having served in the armies of Napoleon the Great, lately performed a pilgrimage to the foot of Marshal Ney's statue, the masterpiece of the renowned sculptor Bude, erected on the Square of the Observatory, close to the Luxembourg Gardens, on the very spot where the brave officer was shot on the 7th of December, 1815.

DR. SCHLIEHMANN has discovered in a tomb at Argos a large golden mask and an enormous breast-plate of gold. He has also found the body of a man, wonderfully preserved, especially the face. The head was round, the eyes large, and the mouth contained thirty-two fine teeth. There is, however, a difficulty about preserving the remains. There were also found fifty bronze swords with great golden hilts—a mass of immense golden buttons, splendidly engraved, ornamented the sheaths of the swords; also two great golden globes, and a great quantity of other objects in gold, articles in chased crystal, ten large cooking utensils of bronze, but no traces of iron or glass.