

legacies, asked Admiral Saunders to accept his light service of plate "in remembrance of his guest," left his papers and books to Carleton, made various money presents to certain officers, friends, and servants, and the residue to his "good mother entirely at her disposal." There remained nothing now to be done but to await the turn of the tide, the turn of the tide in every sense of the word for Wolfe, for Montcalm, for Canada, for America, for two great Empires. Midnight was approaching when a single lantern conveyed the order that Monckton's and Murray's men were to take their place in the boats: the night, hitherto lighted only by the stars, had become misty; the movement would therefore be shrouded from the sharpest watch on shore even if it were kept, and the men who had been warned to maintain silence made the least possible noise. Before the tide ceased to flow part of Holmes' fleet began to move up the river; it was his custom to go up and down with the tide, and no suspicion that any special development was at hand was started in the minds of the French, if they detected the big ships making the usual movement. For an attack they were prepared. Away on the other side of Quebec the fleet under Saunders was active,<sup>1</sup> and the Levi batteries flashed and boomed.

The signal  
to start.

About two o'clock a second signal was given and the boats, the first of which contained Wolfe, his staff, and twenty-four men who had been selected to lead what might prove to be a forlorn hope, set out in a

<sup>1</sup> An *Edinburgh Reviewer* (July, 1903), who has examined the ships' logs preserved in the Public Record Office, disputes the activity of both Holmes and Saunders as commonly reported, but I can see nothing in the ships' records to disprove that Holmes moved up the river to deceive Bougainville, or that Saunders demonstrated to deceive Montcalm.