

His widow was left with an income of twenty-six pounds a year. Her appeal to the War Office for assistance drew forth the reply that "The Compassionate Funds is confined to Officers' Widows and Orphans who have no other provision!"¹ These scattered fragments, culled from the Registry of Wills and from Military Despatches, are all the biographical material we have been able to glean relating to Captain Knox.

The two volumes written by Knox were published by subscription and probably the receipts did not exceed the expenditure. Many accounts have been written of the campaigns of 1757-1760, some by men of high rank; but, after a lapse of one hundred and fifty years, the narrative of Knox is regarded as the most valuable record of those eventful times. We have found no mention of the publication in contemporary reviews, and it is probable that the issue was confined to the subscribers. That the author was in straightened circumstances during his last years is evident, and poverty is no recommendation to those in high places. Perhaps he did not possess the qualifications necessary to ensure success. It is clear that he could not obtain sufficient influence for promotion in the service. The soldier scribe, having surrendered his sword to a higher command, passed himself out of memory. But his valuable work remains.

Knox's English, it must be admitted, is often slipshod, but his style, though sober, is terse and not dull. If some of the incidents appear now of comparatively little interest, it must be remembered that Knox wrote for his contemporaries, and chiefly, we may believe, for those who had taken part in the events with which he was dealing. For these even the minor details which he records would have value as supplementing their own recollections and impressions. The *Journal* keeps the reader wonderfully in touch with the general course

¹ Public Record Office, W.O., 4, vol. 102.