

(Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.)

## SONNET.

TO TWO ABSENT FRIENDS.

A Happy New Year to ye friends of mine,  
Black-robed, white-souled, beside your Southern sea!  
There, when ye sing the canticles divine,  
Spare yet some kindly thoughts for home and me.  
Here, where the winds bite, and the misty moon  
Storms our led glimmers in the shrouded sky,  
I call them back, the days that died too soon,  
Grasp them with rapture, lose them with a sigh.  
Hold fast your holy hopes, and help me too,  
To hold my hopes less holy: break the days  
To hours each finding its own work to do,  
Of contemplation, study, prayer or praise.  
So shall ye bear the weight of task and time  
Lightly, as winter-terms your happier chime.

M. J. GRIFFIN.

Halifax, Christmas Day, 1871.

# THE EXPEDITION AGAINST QUÉBEC, COMMANDED BY MAJOR-GENEAL WOLFE IN THE YEAR 1759.

(WRITTEN BY AN ENGINEER OF THE EXPEDITION.)

(Continued.)

August 28th.—About one this morning the "Leostoff" frigate and some more vessels passed above the town. There was a battery of eight 12-pounders opened this day at Pointe-aux-Pères.

August 31st.—This night the "Sea Horse" frigate and transports passed above the town.

September 3rd.—The General evacuated the camp at Montmorency this day about noon, the redoubts, batteries, and other works being first set on fire during last night and this morning. It was expected that the enemy for some days past must have seen our preparations for leaving it, would have attacked our retreat, but they made no attempt that way. The General was hoping that they would, and had a trap for that purpose, which however did not take. He ordered the several corps to their alarm posts during the night, and to conceal themselves after daylight, excepting a few guards who were to appear very alert. But Monsieur Montcalm, the French General, contrary to the opinion of his officers, saw something about our camp which gave him a suspicion of the affair, and made him decline the invitation. A few hours discovered that his suspicion was just, but it was a pretty general opinion that he might have made an attempt to great advantage at all events.

The fortifying of this camp, and the bringing of so many pieces of artillery to it, was a work of very great labour. There were about fifty pieces there at one and the same time, and though there was no loss of men in taking or leaving the place, yet during our stay we suffered a good deal. Our fascine and covering parties were frequently attacked, and though we always repulsed the enemy, yet seldom without some little loss, which in the end amounted to a pretty considerable number.

These skirmishes had indeed the good effect of accustoming our men to the woods, and familiarising them with the fighting of the Canadians and Indians, whom they soon began to despise. The General ordered the troops from their camp, to encamp along the road in rear of the batteries at Pointe-aux-Pères, excepting the 2nd battalion of Royal Americans, which was left at the Point of Orleans. He now fixed his headquarters at Pointe Lévis.

September 4th.—Despatches from General Amherst by an officer and four Rangers brought a confirmation of the taking of Niagara, Carleton, and Crown Point.

September 5th.—This evening Brigadier-General Murray went up the south side of the river from Pointe Lévis Camp with four battalions, and embarked between the Etchemin and Chaudière Rivers, on board our fleet then lying off that place. This fleet consisted of the "Sutherland" of 60 guns, the "Leostoff," "Sea Horse," and "Squirrel" frigates, and the "Hunter" sloop, with two or three small armed vessels and some transports, the whole under the command of Admiral Holmes.

September 6th.—This afternoon Brigadier-Generals Monckton and Townshend, with three battalions, marched from Pointe Lévis, and embarked in the same place that General Murray did the night before—that is, between the Etchemin and Chaudière Rivers. The General followed in the evening and embarked likewise. He left the 3rd battalion of Royal Americans and some Marines under the command of Colonel Carleton to keep the post at the Point of Orleans, and the 45th Regiment, some small detachments of other corps, and some Marines under the command of Colonel Burton, to keep the batteries at Pointe-aux-Pères, and the camp at Pointe Lévis.

September 7th.—Early this morning the fleet moved up to Cape Rouge, and in the evening the General having reconnoitred the coast fixed upon a place a little below Pointe-aux-Trembles for making a descent: but the weather not proving favourable at the time ordered, which was the morning of the 9th, it was put off, and the troops being so much crowded on board the transports, were that evening landed at St. Nicholas on the south side of the river for air and exercise. The General on the same day found out another place more to his mind, and thereupon laid aside all further thoughts of that at Pointe-aux-Trembles.

September 10th.—The General took with him Admiral Holmes, Brigadier-Generals Monckton and Townshend, with some other officers, to reconnoitre the place he had fixed upon. Brigadier-General Murray was left ashore with the command of the troops at St. Nicholas. The place that the General fixed upon for the descent is called Foulon. They reconnoitred it from a rising ground on the south side of the river, below the mouth of the Etchemin, from whence there was a fair view, not only of the place itself, but likewise of a considerable part of the ground between it and the town, which is a mile and a-half below. The bank which runs along the shore is very steep and woody, and was thought so impracticable by the French themselves that they had then only a single picket to defend it. This picket, which we supposed might be about 100 men, was encamped upon the bank, near the top of a narrow winding path, which runs up from the shore. This path was broken up by the enemy themselves and barricaded with an abatis; but about 200 yards to the right there appeared to be a slope in the bank, which was thought might answer the purpose.

The circumstances in conjunction with the distance of the place from succors seemed to promise a fair chance of success.

September 11th.—There were orders for the troops ashore to embark to-morrow morning, and for the whole to hold themselves in readiness to land upon the 13th before day-break. The first landing was to consist of 400 Light Infantry, under the command of Colonel Howe, and 1,300 of the regiments of Bragg, Kennedy, Anstruther, Lascelles, and a detachment of Fraser's, under Generals Monckton and Murray, both commands amounting to 1,700 men, which was the number our boats landed at one trip. The ships that had the troops of the second landing on board were to follow the boats, and anchor as near as possible to the landing place. These consisted of three frigates, a man-of-war sloop, three armed vessels and two transports, and they were to be followed by some ordnance vessels with intrenching tools, artillery, and ammunition.

The second landing was to consist of Amherst's Louisbourg Grenadiers, the remainder of Fraser's, a detachment of Light Infantry, the 3rd battalion of Royal Americans, and Otway's, the whole amounting to 1,910, under the command of Brigadier-General Townshend.

September 12th.—The troops that had been ashore re-embarked in accordance with yesterday's orders, and everything was prepared for the operations of the day following.

There were injunctions given both officers and men very suitable to the occasion, and the naval officers who were to conduct the boats and vessels in the landing, were likewise thoroughly instructed in their part of that duty. Our fleet still continued at anchor off Cape Rouge, which is about six miles above Foulon; but the "Hunter" sloop lay about two-thirds of the way further down. The enemy had a body of between 2,000 and 3,000 men, including 230 horses, under the command of Monsieur Boucherville, a brave colonel, posted from Cape Rouge River along the coast towards Pointe-aux-Trembles, to watch our motions and to prevent our making a descent at these places, which they conjectured to have been our design. They had likewise some batteries, with cannon, in the mouth of that river, and a sloop run a little way up, so that they wanted no advantage in making an immediate discovery of every step we might take, whether by night or day.

September 13th.—Between two and three in the morning our boats began to be in motion, dropping down with the tide in their order for landing before mentioned, and as silently as they could.

Admiral Holmes hoisted his flag on board of one of the frigates, and followed with the shipping in the same manner, the whole seemingly unobserved by the enemy.

In our way down a captain of the Light Infantry in one of the foremost boats discovered by accident from the "Hunter" sloop that the enemy expected some boats down the river that night with provisions, and availing himself of the discovery, and being well acquainted with the French language, passed several of the enemy's sentries as such, by which manner the Light Infantry had actually landed without being once fired at. The battalions under Brigadier-Generals Monckton and Murray landed immediately after them, and then the enemy's picket took the alarm and began to fire. Three companies of Light Infantry were immediately ordered to get up the bank to the right of the pathway as best they could, and to give a signal when they had done so, upon which the remainder of the Light Infantry were to force the pathway, and attack the picket in front; but after a little firing the picket was dispersed by those three companies only. The French captain was wounded, and with about half the picket made prisoners. The remainder made their escape along the edge of the bank towards the town, and with some small flying parties posted there kept firing upon some of our boats, which by mistake had dropped down too far that way, where the General was obliged to follow in his own boat to order them back. The battalions were found upon the beach as they landed, and now began to get up the bank, and form above.

The Light Infantry were disposed of, some in the woods on our left flank, to cover that side, and others to scour the face of the bank towards the town.

The General, being now landed, gave orders to hurry the getting up of some troops, still remaining below, and a guard being left to cover the remainder of the landing, he got up the bank and reached the summit about daylight. Very soon after his getting up, a picket of the battalion of Guienne appeared upon a rising ground, at some little distance above us; but finding they were too late, they retired without making any attempt to molest us. By information we afterwards obtained this battalion was to have come upon this ground the night before; but by some lucky accident their arrival was deferred; some say they were detained by the French General himself upon receiving intelligence by a deserter that there was a descent to be made that night upon the coast of Beauport. All the troops of the first landing being now upon the top of the bank, the first step taken was the attack on a battery of four pieces of cannon, which the enemy had at a place called Samope, about a mile and-a-half above, near Silery. This battery began to play about daybreak, and must have annoyed both boats and shipping a good deal, particularly those of the second landing.

Brigadier-General Murray with the 58th Regiment and Light Infantry, under the command of Colonel Howe, was immediately sent to surround it, with two deserters as guides. The main body of the first landing was now marched up to the top of the height, called L'Hauteur d'Abraham, which forms a plain.

We found some of the enemy in a house, and some Indians skulking in a copse hard by, when a detachment of Grenadiers was sent to hunt them off, which, after exchanging a few shots, they effected. Then the whole were drawn up with the right in the direction of the town, and the front looking towards the Lewis Road. They remained but for a short time in this position, when the General from an eminence on the right discovered the enemy assembling on the rising ground between him and the town, and observing their number to increase, changed the front of the line and faced towards them. The right was thus in the direction of the river and the left towards the St. Lewis Road. He sent for General Murray to return and join him with the 58th Regiment, and for Colonel Howe with the Light Infantry to come and cover his rear. The order soon reached General Murray, who immediately came; but the Light Infantry having gone forward, the officer bearing the order followed them to the battery with a platoon of Grenadiers, and falling upon a short cut through the woods got there before them.

The enemy fired a gun at him and a volley of small arms, which he returned, and the Light Infantry coming up just at the time, the enemy abandoned their battery without making any further resistance. Colonel Howe upon receiving the order immediately returned with his whole command; but the General, finding that he had been master of the battery, sent back a detachment of Light Infantry to keep possession of it.

Both armies had now become pretty numerous,—ours, by the second landing, which by this time had joined us,—and the enemy's, by their troops from Beauport, which were coming up very fast. In the space between the two armies there were some clumps of high brush, which afforded good cover and brought on a skirmishing which was warmly kept up on both sides, during the assembling and disposition of the troops for a general action. When the lines were nearly completed, there began a slight cannonading with small field-pieces, the enemy with one in their line and we with two in ours.

The 48th Regiment, and 2nd Battalion of Royal Americans, that had been marched up from Pointe Lévis to the shore opposite, and crossed over, were the last to join us. They arrived about eight o'clock, and our line and disposition were completed soon afterwards.

Our line, consisting of the three companies of Louisbourg Grenadiers, and six battalions, faced the enemy's line. The right was commanded by Brigadier-General Monckton, and the left by Brigadier-General Murray. The several corps were commanded as follows, viz:—the Louisbourg Grenadiers by Lieut.-Colonel Murray; the 35th by Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher; the 28th by Colonel Walsh; the 43rd by Major Elliott; the 47th by Lieut.-Colonel Hale; the 43rd and 78th by Captain Campbell; and the 58th by Major Agnew. The rear of our left was covered by two battalions, commanded by Brigadier-General Townshend, which faced the enemy's irregulars upon that side. These two battalions were the 15th, under Major Irving, and the 2nd battalion of Royal Americans, under the command of Captain Oswald.

The 4th, commanded by Colonel Burton, (who had scarcely recovered from his wound), formed a body of reserve in the rear of the right, the Light Infantry, under Colonel Howe, covered our rear, and the 3rd battalion of Royal Americans, commanded by Colonel Young, protected the landing place, which would be necessary for our retreat, in case we should meet with a defeat.

The General at first moved about everywhere, but after the beginning of the action he took up his position on a rising ground near to where our right flank was resting, from whence he had a view of the whole field. The enemy's line of battle was completed soon after ours. It consisted of five battalions of regulars in the centre, and of three battalions of colony troops on the right and left. Their irregulars, consisting of Canadians and Indians, were dispersed in flying parties on our flanks, particularly on our left, where they were very numerous, and before the charge of the main body, made some weak advances, as if they were about to attack us on this flank. But General Townshend having ordered two pickets of the 15th to advance by turn and fire on them, they hastily retired to a safe distance, from whence they kept up an intermittent and desultory fire.

The enemy's General Officers were Lieut.-General the Marquis de Montcalm, and Brigadier-General Senezergues, Lieutenant-Colonel de La Salle.

The French line began moving up to the charge about nine o'clock, advancing briskly, and for some little time in good order. Their front began to waver before they got within range, and the firing immediately extended throughout the whole body; but in a very wild and scattered manner. They now began to waver; but still kept advancing, with the same disorderly fire. When they had arrived within 100 yards of our line, our troops advanced regularly with a steady fire, and when within 20 or 30 yards of closing gave a general volley, upon which the enemy's whole line turned in the same instant, and fled in a most precipitate manner. They were by 10 o'clock pursued within musket-shot of their own walls, and scarcely looked behind till they got within them.

Their irregulars upon our left moved towards the town, when their line gave way, but still maintained their ground along the bank upon that side, whence, under cover of some copse and brush, they kept up a continual fire.

Brigadier-General Murray, who, with Fraser's battalion of Highlanders, the 78th, had pursued the enemy within musket-shot of St. Ursule Bastion, being informed that all our other Generals were wounded, and the enemy having totally disappeared, was now returning to the field of battle; but hearing the firing of the irregulars still continue, ordered the 78th to beat them off. A hot skirmish ensued in which the Highlanders suffered a good deal; but being reinforced by some of the 58th Regiment, and of the 2nd battalion of Royal Americans, they drove the irregulars, helter-skelter, into the suburb of St. Roch, and thence towards the bridge over the River St. Charles. Here the main body, after having passed through the town to mask their retreat, were still crossing in great confusion. We then became sole masters of the field; our loss, though not great in numbers, was nevertheless severe.

Our General was mortally wounded, when the affair had almost come to a crisis, and only lived long enough to know that he should die victorious.

Brigadier-General Monckton received a severe wound soon after the General, and was carried off the field.

We had more killed and wounded in the skirmishing than in the general action. Among the number was Colonel Carleton, who was wounded, and carried off before the enemy began to charge.

Our total loss was 9 officers killed and 55 wounded; 49 non-commissioned officers and men killed and 542 wounded. The enemy's loss was more considerable. The Marquis de Montcalm was mortally wounded, and Brigadier-General Senezergues with about 200 officers and men lay dead upon the field.

We took 13 officers and 350 men prisoners; the number of their wounded we could not exactly find out; but from what we could learn they must have been above 1,000 or 1,200 men.

The command now devolved upon Brigadier-General Townshend, who by mistake, was said to have been wounded instead of Colonel Carleton.

Soon after the action a party of the enemy attempted to take the battery at Samope, but were repulsed with some loss.

Between twelve and one o'clock a considerable body of the enemy appeared upon the St. Foy Road, in rear of our left, which we soon learned to be M. Boucherville's command.