

Major Stobo as a Prisoner of War under French Regime

An almost parallel case to that of Gen. Winfield Scott as a prisoner of war under English domination was that of Major Robert Stobo in the closing years of French rule in Canada. A captain in a Virginia regiment of foot, he was captured at the battle of Fort Necessity, in which the Colonial forces suffered severe defeat at the hands of the French. He was sent a prisoner of war to Quebec, but, liberated on parole, he too became a social lion among the select French society of that period in the ancient capital. Being of an active and enterprising spirit he began to spy out the land, and to plan methods of escape. This he finally accomplished after a series of hair-breadth adventures too lengthy to record here. He finally joined Gen. Wolfe's forces at Louisburg, and accompanied the latter to Quebec, and remained until its capitulation. To Stobo is ascribed the information as to the feasibility of the ascent to the Plains of Abraham by the route finally determined upon. However this may be, he remains an interesting historical figure if only through his letters to his friend, Geo. Washington, and those of a Miss Duchesnay, of Beauport, to her friend, Miss Taschereau, of Beauce.

Sir Gilbert Parker, in his historical romance "The Seats of the Mighty," makes Stobo the hero, and almost in detail embodies the story of Stobo's own adventures which was published from his journal in 1854, at Pittsburgh, Pa.