

Taking the whole war in America into one view, Canada had been defended with bravery and conduct sufficient to crown the Generals Wolfe and Amherst, and the Admirals Boscawen and Saunders, who finally reduced it, with the greatest glory. And without question, the conduct of General Amherst, in his late expedition, by which he obliged Montreal to surrender without a blow, and finally conquered Canada without effusion of blood, deserved every honor and every recompense a grateful people could bestow. The humanity with which he behaved to the conquered, both French and Indians, though the one had perpetrated, and the other at least connived at the most horrid cruelties to the English prisoners, added a high lustre to his conquest. His troops set not one house on fire, not one habitation was plundered, not one man was killed, except in the attack on Isle Royal. None was more distinguished in this respect than Sir William Johnson. He led into Canada an army of a thousand of the fiercest and most cruel savages in America, without doing the smallest damage to the country, or offering the slightest injury to the persons of the inhabitants. To effect this he was obliged to exert the most unwearied endeavours, and the whole of those uncommon talents which gave to him such power over the minds of all sorts of men. The great victories by which he had advanced the interest of his country, confer on his memory less honor than that conduct, by which he had so greatly advanced its character for humanity and moderation. It were to be wished that the same might be said of the army that marched from Quebec to Montreal, who, finding that the inhabitants in some parts were out in arms, were under the necessity of setting fire to the villages. The tenderness of General Murray's nature revolted when the giving such orders became a necessary part of his duty.

The Conquest of Canada was confirmed by the treaty of peace of 1763. The acquisition of an immense territory was not, however, the only advantage that Great Britain could derive from the success of her arms. The considerable population she had found there was of still greater importance. Some of these numerous inhabitants, it is true, had fled from a new dominion, which admitted no other difference among men, but such as arose from personal qualities, education, fortune, or the advantage of being useful to society. But the emigration of these persons, whose importance was founded on nothing but barbarous custom, could not surely be considered as a misfortune. The only things necessary to make the colony prosper, were, that its lands should be cleared, its forests cut down, its iron mines worked, its fisheries extended, its industry and exportation improved. The province of Canada has been convinced of this truth. And, indeed, notwithstanding the ties of blood, language, religion and government, which are usually so strong; notwithstanding that variety of connections and prejudices which have so powerful an ascendant over the minds of men; the Canadians have never shewn much concern at their violent separation from their ancient country. They have readily concurred in the measures employed by the British government to establish their happiness and liberty upon a solid foundation.

When Montreal was reduced by General Amherst, it was well peopled. It was of an oblong form, being surrounded by a wall, flanked with eleven redoubts, which served instead of bastions. The ditch was