

nized the value of a valley which lay between Canada and the Mississippi, and was so necessary to the security of the American dominions of France. Adventurous British pioneers were at last commencing to cross the Alleghanies, and a company had been formed with the express intention of stimulating settlement in the valley. George Washington, at the head of a small Colonial force, was defeated in his attempt to drive the English from the Ohio, and the English Government was compelled to send out a large body of regular troops under the command of General Braddock, who met defeat and death on the banks of the Monongahela. General Johnson, on the other hand, defeated a force of French regulars, Canadian Militia and Indians, under General Dieskau, at the southern end of Lake George.

In 1756 war was publicly proclaimed between France and England, although, as we have just seen, it had already broken out many months previously in the forests of America. When the two Powers met in a final struggle France had to face a vastly superior force of English regular and Colonial troops as well as a great fleet sent to American waters, but, at the same time, she had in her favour the loyal support of the French-Canadians, the advantage of an apparently impregnable position at Quebec, and the defence of numerous forts which commanded the approaches to the French possessions. Louisbourg protected the entrance to the Gulf and River St. Lawrence. Quebec had been strengthened since the days of Frontenac, and was believed to be safe from any assailants. The approaches to Montreal by way of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River were defended by forts at Crown Point, Ticonderoga and St. Jean. Lake Ontario was defended on the east by Fort Frontenac, and on the west by Fort Niagara, which was considered the Canadian key to the Ohio valley, and, indeed, to the whole western country. Forts at Detroit, Mackinaw and the Sault gave additional security for French interests in the basin of the

great lakes. Other forts and posts in the country watered by the Wisconsin, Illinois, Wabash and Maumee, protected the great western region and prevented access to the Mississippi, whose mouth was defended by New Orleans. Canada, consequently, attempted to keep up a connection between the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of St. Lawrence through her vast territory by means of a cordon of forts and posts, separated, in the majority of cases, by great distances from each other, but still a source of strength in her ambitious plan of dominion had she ever had a sufficient force of men to hold them.

During the Seven Years' War England's ally, Frederick the Great, gained the victories of Rossbach, Leuthen and Minden, and laid the foundations of the present empire of Germany. India was virtually won for England by Clive at Plassy, and France was compelled to give up her ambitious designs in America and cede Canada to her rival, and Louisiana to Spain. It was the genius of the elder Pitt, Lord Chatham, that mainly brought about such momentous results. Through his energetic and prescient statesmanship England supported Frederick, and Wolfe was chosen to assail Quebec.

During the first two years of the war in America the English forces sustained several disasters through the incompetency of the English Commanders on land and sea. The French were now led by the Marquis de Montcalm, distinguished both as a soldier of great ability and as a man of varied intellectual accomplishments. In the early part of his Canadian campaign he was most fortunate. Fort William Henry, at the foot of Lake George, and Fort Oswego, on the south side of Lake Ontario, were captured, but his signal victory at the former place was sullied by the massacre of defenceless men, women and children by his Indian allies, although it is now admitted by all impartial writers that he did his utmost to prevent so sad a sequel to his triumph. The English Commander-in-Chief, Lord Loudoun,