

tion, of proceeding with his own ship *The Pembroke*, *The Sutherland*, Captain Rous, and some frigates, *via* Gut of Canso for the River St. Lawrence, in order to intercept the French supplies, there is not the least doubt but that Monsieur Cannon with his whole convoy must have inevitably been taken; as he only made the river six days before Admiral Durell, as we learnt from a French brig taken off Gaspé. At this place, being on board *The Princess Amelia*, I had the mortification of being present whilst the minute guns were firing on the melancholy occasion of Captain Simcoe's remains being committed to the deep. Had he lived to have got to Quebec, great matter of triumph would have been afforded him, on account of his spirited opposition to many Captains of the Navy, who had given it as their opinion that ships of the line could not proceed up the river; whereas our whole fleet got up perfectly safe. Could I have had recourse to my Journals, which have unfortunately been lost, it would have been in my power to have recounted many circumstances with more minuteness than I am at present enabled to do. I have the honour, &c., SAMUEL HOLLAND."

Captain Simcoe's death occurred, from natural causes, off Gaspé, just as the fleet was beginning its ascent of the river for the memorable attack on Quebec, in 1759. His monument in Cotterstock Church, Northamptonshire, says: "He was an officer esteemed for great abilities in naval and military affairs, of unquestioned bravery, and unwearied diligence." Appended to Major Holland's letter is the following memorandum in the handwriting of Gen. Simcoe himself: "Major Holland told me that when my father was applied to, to know whether his body should be preserved to be buried on shore, he replied, 'Apply your pitch to its proper purpose: keep your lead to mend the shot holes: commit me to the deep.' J. G. S." The mention in Major Holland's letter of "the great cabin" of *The Pembroke*, "dedicated to scientific purposes, mostly taken up with a drawing table, and furnishing no room for idlers," gives us a pleasant glimpse of an interior scene in an armed cruiser engaged in the double service of defending and surveying a coast. Great, doubtless, has been the debt of all later navigators of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence to the observations jotted down for the first time in the busy great cabin of *The Pembroke*. Major Holland was uncle of Joseph Bouchette, author of "The British Dominions in North America," who ultimately became his successor as Surveyor-General of Lower Canada.