

Service at Greenwich in Memory of Wolfe



It was a happily inspired idea that on the day the historic Plains of Abraham, outside Quebec, were being dedicated as a national memorial by the Prince of Wales, a religious service should be held at home in commemoration of General Wolfe, who, by his genius and valour on those far-off battlefields, retained Canada for England; and by his death, at the moment of victory, fittingly crowned his own romantic and heroic military career, says the London Times. The idea was as impressively carried out as it was happily conceived. No more fitting place for the commemoration could be chosen than the parish church of Greenwich, where the national hero, in life, often attended Divine service, and where, in death, he was laid to rest with his father and mother. Wolfe was ten years old when his parents removed from Westerham, the Kentish village of his birth, to Greenwich, taking up their abode in a large house, known as Macartney house, which still stands at the junction of Chesterfield walk and Croom's hill, close to Greenwich park. Wolfe himself passed three or four years at Greenwich before he set out on the military career which was to culminate, when he was but 33 years old, in the glory of his being the chief and triumphant figure in one of the greatest events recorded in national history.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was slain by the Danes at Greenwich in the eleventh century, stands in the centre of the old riverside town. It was built in the reign of Queen Anne, to take the place, on the same site, of the ancient parish church, which had fallen into ruin. It is a solid and strikingly imposing structure, built of Portland stone in the Roman style of architecture, cruciform in plan, and has a tower terminating in a spire. As the church is closely surrounded by shops and houses, no glimpse is to be obtained, even from the spacious flight of steps of its facade, of the fair prospect of the Thames and Greenwich hospital which delights the eye when viewed from the heights of the adjoining park. Wolfe's father, Lieutenant-General Edward Wolfe, was the first of the family to be buried in the crypt of the church. He died six months before his son. Mrs. Wolfe survived her son for five years, during which she resided at Greenwich. The body of the hero was brought from Quebec on board the war vessel, the Royal William, and was landed at Portsmouth on November 17, 1759, about two months after the battle. Three days later the interment in the crypt of the church took place. It is recorded in the parish register by the following simple inscription: "Major-General James Wolfe, November 20th, 1759."

Around the church yesterday, as noon approached, a great crowd gathered to watch the arrival of the congregation invited to the service. The Union Jack floated from the flag-staff of the church in the brilliant sunshine; and the bells rang a merry peal. There was nothing funeral in the aspect of things. It was an occasion of national rejoicing. The service, as will be seen later, was bright and joyous, with just an appropriate undertone of solemnity. The people of the town, in their desire to take part in the commemoration, fittingly hung colored bunting from their windows.

The interior of the church is spacious. It has a broad nave with a central passage and two side aisles. Deep galleries extend along two sides. The fittings are of dark oak highly carved and polished. In an arched recess stands the altar surmounted by a stained glass window with a representation of the Crucifixion. The solemn dimness of the church was relieved by the rays of sunshine streaming through the deep-set windows; and when the congregation, so representative of naval, military and civil life, was assembled for the service it was a bright picture that was presented, not wanting even in a touch of gaiety contributed by the light summer costumes of the ladies. In the top pew of the middle aisle, on the right hand looking towards the altar, sat the representative of the King, Field-Marshal Sir George White (the defender of Ladysmith), in full dress uniform, and wearing the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, with many medals. To his left was Mr. Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States, in morning dress.

The service was characterized by a fine sense of what was appropriate to the occasion and an exquisite taste. The feelings it excited were not the noisy spirit of ambition, or the turbulent love of war and conquest. But stirring through it was the moving appeal of love and country; and thanksgiving for great men who serve the nation, and insistence on the nation's duty fitfully to honor its heroes. The music of the service was provided by the band of the Coldstream Guards (by permission of Col. Maxse), reinforced by extra drums from the 2nd Battalion, the whole under the direction of Lieut. J. Mackenzie Rogan, Mus. Doc. As an opening voluntary they played "Benedictus" (Sir Alexander Mackenzie), and its solemn strains inspired, at once, the mingled reverence and exaltation appropriate to the commemoration. At its conclusion the clergy and the choir appeared at the west door. The clergy present were the Rev. S. Martyn Bardsley (Vicar and Rural Dean of Greenwich), the Rev. E. V. Ewitt, the Rev. W. W. Fearon, and the Rev. T. R. H. Sturges (assistant clergy), the Rev. G. Elder (Chaplain to the Mayor of Greenwich), Canon

Rhodes Bristow, the Rev. H. Landsell, D. D., the Rev. S. Kenah, R.N., the Rev. C. Moore, R.N., the Rev. H. E. Heinekey, the Bishop of Niagara, Bishop Taylor Smith (Chaplain-General to the Forces), the Bishop of Woolwich, and the Archbishop of Toronto. As they proceeded up the middle passage to the choir, the hymn "Fight the Good Fight" was finely sung to the splendid accompaniment of the band, the roll of the many drums being particularly striking and impressive. The opening sentences, general confession, and exhortation were read by the Vicar. Then Psalm CXLIV. was sung.

The Lesson, "Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us" (Ecclesiasticus xlv.), was read by Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain-General to the Forces. The Apostles' Creed, Lesser Litany, Versicles, and Collects were followed by Kipling's "Recessional."

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The splendid singing of this hymn to the tune generally associated with "Eternal Father, strong to save," stood out as one of the most moving features of the service.

The Archbishop of Toronto then entered the pulpit to deliver the address. But first he read the following telegrams, which had been received since the service began, from Lord Grey, Governor-General of Canada, and Lord Roberts:

Archbishop of Toronto, Greenwich, England:

Owing to the generous interest in the Plains of Abraham, expressed in Canada, England, and elsewhere, we are able to celebrate today their dedication by the Prince of Wales as a monument of race fusion and peace, and we are much interested in hearing that you are holding at the same time a service at Greenwich, and so we hope that its result may be the early erection of a monument worthy of our hero.

The telegram from Lord Roberts was received by Mr. Grenfell. It ran:

All here delighted to hear of honor paid to Wolfe at Greenwich.

Horrible System of Torture In Russia

INFORMATION concerning the terrible measures of repression taken by the Russian government in order to maintain autocracy is continually reaching the English press; writes the New York Evening Post. However, one has seldom at his disposal such a striking indictment against the present rulers of Russia as the "Statement, No. 10, to accompany a Question made to the Ministers of Interior, War, Navy, and Justice, concerning the Illegal Action of Military and Civil Authorities in the Baltic Provinces," signed by thirty-one members of the present Duma which was laid before the Duma on May 2 (15), 1908, says Prince Kropotkin in a letter to the London Times.

After having given a general sketch of the causes which produced in the year 1905 an insurrection in the Baltic provinces, the "statement," which covers forty-three pages in quarto, goes on to enumerate, one by one, for every district and canton of three Baltic provinces, the really incredible acts of murder and torture which have been committed there by the "punitive expeditions" from December, 1905, down to March 1, 1907.

After order has been restored—that is, in the middle of December, 1905—military punitive expeditions began to sweep over the Baltic provinces. Armed with lists of proscriptions made by the landlords themselves, the punitive expeditions began burning the farms and the properties, not only of those whose names stood in these lists, but also of their relatives. Very often, when some person named in the list was missing, his parents were taken and either flogged or shot.

Throughout the month of December, 1905, and the first three months of 1906, the punitive expeditions acted with especial brutality, not only in the Lettish portion, but in all the Baltic provinces, as also to some extent in the provinces of Vitebsk.

Men and Women Shocked

Besides burning and devastating the farms and the properties of the peasants and the agricultural laborers, the military expeditions, without any trial or inquest, flogged and shot men and women absolutely innocent, either separately or in groups. The reasons for such flogging and such shooting remained in most cases unknown, because the heads of the military expeditions gave no explanation, even to the victims.

After having given this general description of the condition of things, the "statement" I am quoting from proceeds to give detailed lists of men and women who have been executed or tortured in the Lettish provinces. Each district and canton of these provinces is taken separately, and the names of the victims, as well as those of the executioners and torturers, are given in full, and such an enumeration goes on for thirty-four pages (sixty-seven columns). I will only give a few examples taken at

The Archbishop then spoke as follows taking for his text the words: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give to me at that day; and not only to me, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." (II. Timothy, iv., 7-8.)

Wolfe's glorious victory—the subject of the present commemoration—achieved a result which places it in the first rank of the triumphs of British arms. It gained for England the greatest of her colonial possessions, the brightest gem in her Imperial crown. The story is too familiar to Englishmen to need more than the merest sketch of its outlines. James Wolfe was born at Westerham Vicarage, Kent, on January 2, 1727, the eldest son of General Edward Wolfe. Receiving his education at Eton, he was in various services on the Continent and in Scotland, but chiefly on garrison duty. In 1758 Pitt gave him, with the rank of colonel, the command of a brigade in the expedition against Cape Breton under General Amherst. In the expedition, the capture of Louisbourg was mainly due to Wolfe; and the minister, who was then scheming for the expulsion of the French from Canada, chose him to command the expedition for the capture of Quebec. In February, 1759, he sailed from England as Major-General, with 9,000 men, and landed opposite Quebec on June 26. Louis Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm, had assumed command of the French troops in Canada three years before, and had captured the British posts of Oswego and Fort William Henry. Later on, he had, with a small force, successfully defended Ticonderoga against 15,000 regular and provincial troops under Abercromby. On the loss of the French of Louisbourg and Fort Duquesne, Montcalm moved into Quebec, and at the time of Wolfe's landing, was prepared to defend it from a British attack, with 16,000 troops, mainly militia and Indians. For nearly three months all Wolfe's attempts upon the naturally almost impregnable stronghold were foiled by the vigilance of its defender. He himself was suffering from wretched ill-health, and appears to have been vacillating in his tactics; but at last he found a point sufficiently guarded; and at day-dawn on September 13, with 5,000 men, scaled

the heights and gained the Plains of Abraham. In the battle which followed; the French were driven back upon the city in disorder; Montcalm, in the effort to rally them, was born back by the rush, and mortally wounded, dying the next morning; the French were routed; Quebec capitulated; and Canada was won for England. But at a heavy cost. The youthful victor died in his 33rd year, the soldier's noblest death, in the hour of victory, with the shout of triumph in his ears. His body was brought to England and buried on November 20 in the crypt of this parish church. His fame is imperishable on the roll of England's greatest sons who have given their life's blood to win her glory and extend her Empire; and his example will remain an undying inspiration to generations of British subjects at home and abroad, to sentiments of patriotism and deeds of self-sacrifice and valour in the service of King and country. The occasion of this commemoration is that today the Hero to the Throne, representing by special Commission His Majesty the King, is dedicating the battle-field—the Plains of Abraham—as a memorial park, the gift of the people of England and Canada, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city of Quebec by the heroic Samuel de Champlain. This truly statesmanlike and patriotic idea was the conception of our most able and universally beloved Governor-General Earl Grey. His motive was to bind together in yet closer ties of attachment to each other, and of allegiance to the crown, the two races, French and English, fellow citizens of the great Dominion. In this celebration the two heroes of the battle of the Plains of Abraham are equally honored, as they shared the same glorious death and are immortalized in the same public monument erected in Dominion-square—Wolfe and Montcalm. They strove with equal valor for the mastery on this historic spot; and each nationality accords ungrudging recognition to the high qualities of the other. Englishmen extol the bravery and chivalrous character of the older, and more tried soldier—Montcalm; and Frenchmen admit without envy the dash and skill with which the younger and less experienced Wolfe snatched the victory in face of apparently hopeless odds. All animosities and rivalries of a racial kind are a thing of the past, have been happily buried. Since Canada obtained from the Imperial power the right of

responsible government, and all the provinces were confederated in 1866 into the one Dominion, the French population of the lower provinces have shown themselves thoroughly and justly contented under British rule. That rule has secured to them all that they most prize—their own religion, their own laws, their own language, their full share in self-government; and no section of the community is more loyal today to the Empire than they, no statesman more patriotic in his support of Imperial policy than the French-Canadian Premier of the Dominion—Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Motherland to which they look with dutiful affection is no longer France, but England. All their traditions and national pride are not of the Republic France of today; but of the old Imperial regime which has passed away. The very language—the stately, old-fashioned Court French—retained by the seigniorial families and the educated classes, separates them from their kinsmen across the seas. When, brethren, we commemorate today, in a service of praise, the heroic deeds of the young Kentish soldier on the Heights of Quebec, which added to Britain's transmarine possessions a vast and prosperous nation, offering home, security, and wealth to millions of the teeming denizens of the Old World; when we reflect that, at this hour, our gracious Sovereign's Son and Heir is, in his name, consummating a solemn pledge of perpetual amity between the old time contestants for this splendid heritage, does it not become us to raise heart and voice in praise to God for this priceless blessing of peace, and in earnest prayer that He will pour out on this united Dominion His best gifts of wisdom and righteousness, of temporal and spiritual prosperity, that it may long endure among the nations a praise and glory to His Holy Name?

"The Last Post"

After the address, the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" was sung. Again the accompaniment of the band, with the roll of the drums, was very stirring. Prayers for the King, the Royal Family and the Empire were said; the blessing was given by the Bishop of Woolwich, and the National Anthem was sung by the large congregation with deep feeling. But there remained what was really the most thrilling incident of the service, an incident all the more striking inasmuch as it was totally unexpected, being apparently the outcome of a happy afterthought. This was the sounding of "The Last Post" by the buglers of the Brigade of Guards over the spot where in the vaults below lies the body of Wolfe. This spot is at the west end of the church. It was indicated yesterday by a large Union Jack, the bright red, white and blue colors of which stood out in striking contrast to the grey old stones of the church. Upon the flag were laid three wreaths. The first was of laurels, as befitting the commemoration of a hero. It was sent by the Wolfe and Montcalm Memorial Committee and bore the inscription, eloquent in its simplicity, "Major-General James Wolfe, In Memoriam, 1759." The second was of white lilies, carnations, tuberoses, and asparagus fern, tied with a white watered silk ribbon, which bore the words in gold letters, "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." From George Wolfe of Fornaughts. The third wreath, composed of red, white, and blue flowers, was from the Blackheath branch of the Victoria League. It was here, then, that the buglers of the Brigade of Guards, 24 in number, drew up in double file, and in perfect unison sounded the beautiful and mournful notes of "The Last Post." The martial music rang out through the grand old church with electrical effect, and many of the congregation were visibly moved by this splendid soldiers' lament for one of England's greatest sons.

The service was now at an end. As the processions, clerical, military and civic, reformed to leave the church, the band played "Sir Edward Elgar's 'Land of Hope and Glory,'" the strains of which, in their mingled wistfulness and triumph, seemed to epitomize the history of the nation. The congregation then slowly dispersed, passing out into the bright sunshine amid the joyful pealing of the church bells.

The Archbishop of Toronto subsequently sent the following reply to the message which he had received from the Governor-General of Canada:

Earl Grey, Quebec.—Your much-appreciated message read to crowded and representative congregation. Heartly congratulations and blessings on dedication of Plains.—Archbishop of Toronto.

At Westminster Abbey

Wolfe's monument in the North Ambulatory of Westminster Abbey was visited by a number of people yesterday, and two wreaths were placed upon it by the Dean's vergers. One was a wreath of laurel from the Memorial Committee, and to it was affixed a card inscribed "Major-General James Wolfe. In glorious memory, 1759." The other wreath, which was composed of red and white roses, tied with ribbon, came from the Royal Society of St. George, and attached to it was a card inscribed, "Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us." The wreaths were placed on the lions at the base of the monument. The monument itself bears the following inscription, "To the memory of James Wolfe, Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of the British land forces on an expedition against Quebec, who, after surmounting, by ability and valor, all obstacles of art and nature, was slain in the moment of victory on the 13th of September, 1759. The King and the Parliament of Great Britain dedicated this monument."

During the session of the second Duma, especially after a question was put to the Ministry about the tortures in the Baltic provinces, the tortures and executions were again reduced in number. However, they still continued, and the document which I analyze gives facts to prove this statement. But as soon as the second Duma was dissolved the tortures, the flogging and very soon the executions without judgment and inquest were renewed again. The police station at Riga was a centre to which men and women were, and still are, brought from all the Baltic provinces, in order to be submitted to torture.

random: Government of Livonia, district of Riga; canton Stockmanshof, December 27, 1905 (o.s.).—At mid-day a working man named Berzin was arrested in the field, and four hours later, without any trial or inquest, and without any reason, he was hanged on a pine tree close to the cantonal house—"as a warning to others," the head of the military detachment said. There and then, also, without judgment or inquest, was shot I. Radzyn.

On January 8, 1906, also without trial or inquest, were shot the peasants Skudruts and Lapin; on January 17 the schoolmaster Berzin and Chr. Donner were shot; on January 23, under the orders of the captain, whose name is given in full in the statement, Jacob Brenzia and A. Krigal (from the Sausen canton) were shot and their corpses thrown into the Duna; in February the student Zemur was shot, along with several others. The reasons are in all cases, unknown.

The student Zemur had received from the Governor of Livonia a certificate stating that he had taken no part in the revolutionary movement. And so it continues, for this canton, for a full column which is concluded with these words: "Besides a mass of persons submitted to cruel flogging, with birch rods and Cossack whips." Taking every canton of this district one by one, the statement of the thirty-one members of the Duma continues to give similar facts. In most cases all this shooting went on because the names of the victims stood in the lists communicated to the military commander by the German landlords, or by the noblemen constabulary who volunteered to accompany the punitive expeditions. The flogging, directed by these German noblemen, very often took the most abominable forms.

Killed Without Trial

All these facts of torture are confirmed once more in the statement of the thirty-one members of the Duma. As to the items of the executions, they are simply horrifying. Thus it appears that, in the Lettish part only of the Baltic provinces, the number of persons executed from June 1, 1906, to February 20, 1907, attained the figure of 475 persons shot and hanged, out of whom 187 only were executed in accordance with sentences of field courts-martial. The remainder were executed without any semblance of judgment. No instructions whatever took place during that period.

For the district of Wenden the figures from June 1, 1906, to February 20, 1907 are 61 persons executed, "but it is absolutely impossible," the statement adds, "to establish who was executed in accordance with sentence of military courts and who was never brought before a court. It is only known for certain that every one of these persons was submitted, to most cruel tortures before being shot." "In the Canton of Old Pebalg, on February 18, 1907 Herr Von Raden and the non-commissioned Cossack officer, Rassin submitted the peasant



T San Francisco attorney Alton F. Parker, who made his prosecution of the hoodlums who stole the so-called chise.

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Ex-Mayor Ja ten minutes, and On William ed to the lat Van Cleave, pr Association, in v