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**GUIDE**

— TO —

**THE "QUEBEC MODEL"**

MADE BY

**JEAN-BAPTISTE DUBERGER, R. E.**

AND RESTORED

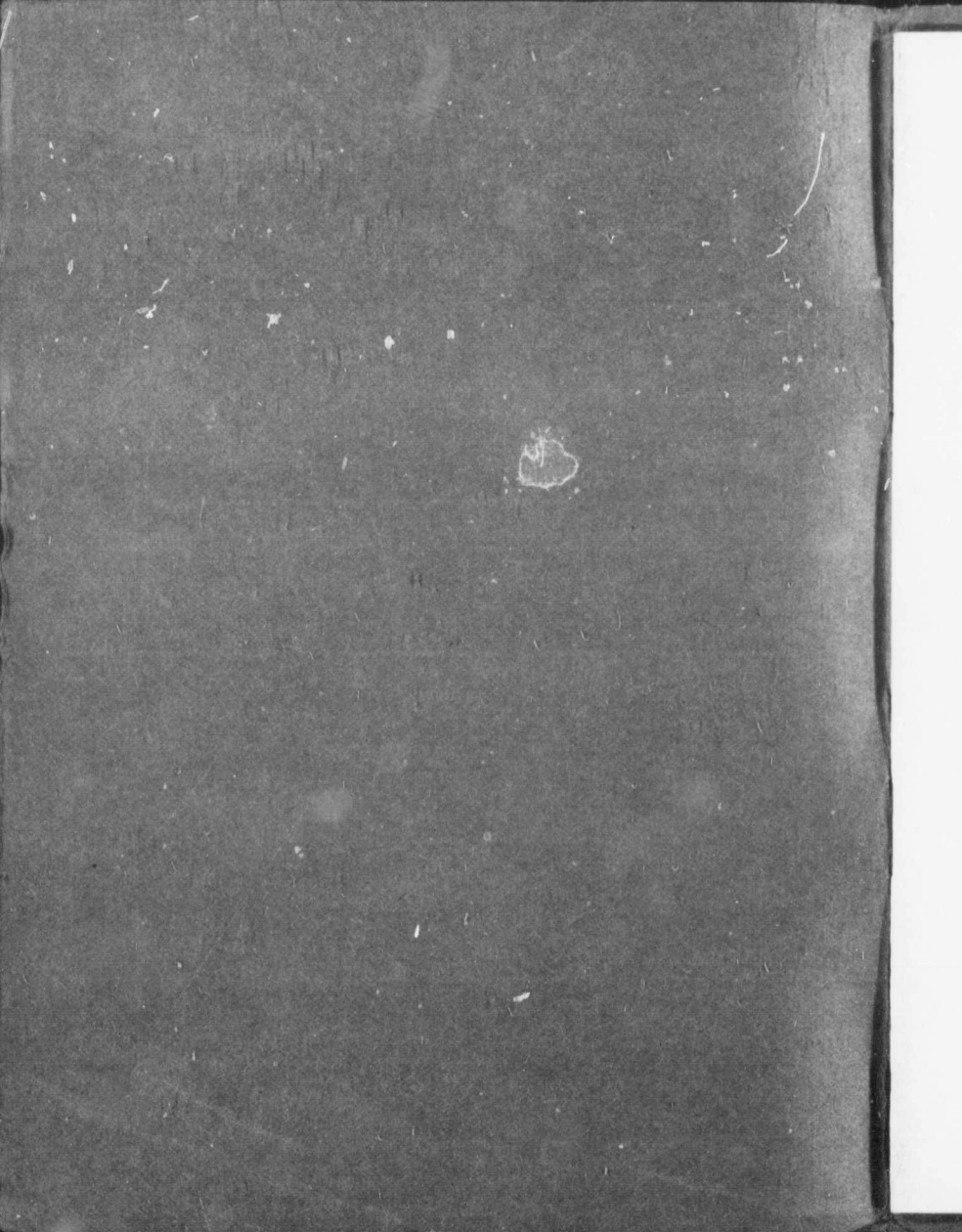
— BY —

**Lt. Col. REVD. P. M. O'LEARY, Pst.**



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1918



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# JEAN-BAPTISTE DUBERGER.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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**J**EAN BAPTISTE DUBERGER or, as he often signed — *John Baptiste Duberger*, — the originator and maker of the now famous “*Model of Quebec*” — depicting the city as it was one hundred years ago; a master piece of ingenuity, patience and skill even in its most minute details, — was born in Detroit in 1767 — of the marriage of *Jean Baptiste Duberger dit Sanschagrín* and *Marie Louise Courtois* or *Courtiers*.

At the early age of nine years, he was sent to Quebec to enter on a course of studies in the Seminary. On this occasion he brought with him some of the family plate where with to pay for his education.

Under the fostering care of *François Perrault*, Prothonotary, he eventually graduated and even showed some intention of studying for the church. His natural inclination towards applied science,

however, caused him to change his mind. After a few years' study directed by Major Holland Duberger finally qualified for the profession of land surveyor.

In 1789—he entered the Service, in the Royal Engineers,—in which corps he served for upwards of twenty-five (25) years, duly gazetted as Lieutenant, 1st Class Royal Surveyor and Draughtsman. In this capacity he was employed in the erection of the Martello towers and the fortifications which were then under construction near St. Louis Gate.

His greatest achievement, however, was the now famous "Model of Quebec," constructed under the direction of Major By for the British Government.

This model, unique in its kind, was begun on Duberger's own premises in Ursuline Lane, in the last years of the 18e century and completed at the Chateau St. Louis in 1812; the Governor Sir James Craig having placed the Ball Room at the maker's disposal.

In 1813, it was brought to England, by Major By, submitted for approval to the Duke of Wellington and other military officers and finally placed in the rotunda of Woolwich Arsenal.

Lambert, in his travels in North America, in 1806, thus describes it, giving due credit to it's maker.

"I must not omit,"—he writes—"to mention

*“with the approbation he deservedly merits, a gentleman of the name of Duberger, a native of the country, (Canada) an officer in the corps of Engineers, and military Draughtsman.*

*“He is a selftaught genius and has had no other advantage than what the Province afforded him, for he has never been out of the country He excels in the mechanical arts and the drawing of military surveys, etc., etc.*

*“But the most important of his labours is a beautiful Model of Quebec, upon which he is at present employed in conjunction with a school fellow of mine, Capt. By of the Engineers.*

*“The whole model is sketched out, and a great part is finished, particularly the fortifications and public buildings. It is upwards of 35 feet in length and comprises a considerable portion of the plains of Abraham, as far as the spot where Wolfe died. That which is done,—is finished with exquisite neatness; cut entirely out of wood and modelled to a certain scale, (24 feet to the inch) so that every part will be completed with singular correctness even to the very shape and projection of the rock, the elevation and descents in the City, and on the plains, particularly those eminences which command the gar-  
“rison.”*

*After a sojourn of a hundred years in Woolwich, the Model was rescued from oblivion and possible destruction through the efforts of Dr. Doughty,*

C.M.G., and the great influence of our late lamented Governor-General, Earl Grey.

When it came into the possession of the Department of Dominion Archives, it was in a most dilapidated condition and reduced in length by half,—the missing part having been cut off in 1861—for want of space in the Woolwich Rotunda. It had also received a generous coat of gray paint which blotted out the doors and windows of the tiny houses. The guns of the batteries, the trees in the gardens, the division walls and fences had all disappeared under the relentless brush of the renovator (?) Many buildings had been misplaced and hundreds had fallen off in transit but were luckily found in the packing cases. The model was almost a ruin.

I had the honor of being intrusted with it's renovation. Had it not been a labor of love I would soon have abandoned the task.

The gross gray paint had to be carefully removed and the original colors again brought to light, with the windows, doors, etc., which had been obliterated. Finally, After almost three years of patient labor, assisted by a skilled workman I succeeded in restoring the model bright and fresh as when it left Duberger's hands.

The credit of having constructed this masterpiece has been the subject of a controversy, into which, even Dr. Miles Duberger's biographer, declined to enter, neither shall I.



*It has been stated that Major By took the model to England, ostensibly to bring it to the notice of the British Government in Duberger's behalf—and to solicit for him a pecuniary award. It is further averred, that such award was really granted but never accounted for by Major By.*

*Dr. Miles, whom I am still quoting, finds that the evidence against Major By is anything but conclusive;—for my part, in the complete absence of documentary evidence, I hesitate to believe that a man of By's standing would be guilty of such an act. He had his own reputation at stake, being at the time intrusted with most important works; the erection of the Martello towers; the building of the citadel; the opening up of the Canal "des Cèdres" near Montreal, and above all the construction of the Rideau canal between Bytown and Kingston. After diligent search here, and through friends in Woolwich and at the War Office, I have found no trace of any appropriation having ever been made and much less paid for the Quebec model.*

*As for the credit of the work.—Never did Major By pose as a draughtsman nor as a wood carver. It is however quite possible,—and again I am quoting Dr. Miles, that having in view the construction of the Martello towers, he originated the idea of the model, while there was a great artist and genius, like Duberger at his disposal to execute the details of the work. Nevertheless the*

model was attributed to Major By, until 1831, when a brass plate was then affixed to it giving full credit for the work to J. B. Duberger.

The whole subject of the controversy though historically interesting leaves one under the painful impression that Duberger was not generously nor even fairly dealt with.

That Duberger ranked as an officer in the Royal Engineers is beyond doubt. His obituary notice in the Quebec Gazette of September 27th 1821, reading as follows:—

“Died at St. Thomas on Wednesday the 9th instant,—John Baptiste Duberger, for upwards of 25 years principal Draughtsman and Surveyor in the R. Engineers Department and late on the half pay of officers of that corps.”

After his death, the usual pension of £31 per annum was granted his widow and a like sum of £31 each to his two eldest sons until the age of eighteen, when a commission would be granted them in either the army, the navy or Cadet Company.

P. M. O'LEARY, Pst.

Lt.-Colonel.

## GUIDE TO THE QUEBEC MODEL

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### **No 1.—Cap Blanc and the King's Ship Yard:**

Ship building seems to have been carried on at this spot, as early as 1672, when Intendant Talon ordered the construction of a ship there. Others followed, among them the King's ship, l'Original, which foundered as she was being launched (1750). Near here in 1831, was built the "Royal William," the first ship to cross the Atlantic under her own steam.

### **No. 2.—The Outworks overlooking the Cove Fields:**

Erected by Capt Twiss in 1784, since improperly called the old french batteries. They were intended to prevent an enemy from holding the "Buttes à Neveu". But as they were open to gun fire from the heights of Levis, they were dismantled when the Citadel was being built.

### **No. 3.—Cape Diamond Bastion:**

The most advanced work of the Citadel, commanding the river up and down stream as also the surrounding country for miles. In it's enclosure stands an

### **No. 4—Old French Powder Magazine:**

Still in excellent preservation, the last remnant

of the fortifications that crowned the crest prior to the conquest.

**No. 5.—The Spot where Montgomery Fell:**

December 31st 1775. Nearby are the remains of the block house and barrier whence the fatal charge was fired—which killed the American general—his two aids and several others.

**No. 6.—Block Houses:**

For lodging the troops and for defensive purposes whilst the citadel was under construction.

**No. 7.—Site of the King's Bastion:**

Overlooking the city.

**No. 8.—Redout at foot of the incline:**

Intended to protect the works.—Nearby are the quarries, "Les Carrières," from which the adjacent street takes its name. They were situated in rear of the Hale Homestead.

**No. 9.—Opposite the Hale Homestead:**

Stands a rather pretensions residence, which was demolished, the ground being expropriated for military purposes.

**No. 10.—The Lower Governor's Garden:**

This had been conceded to Maj. Holland, but

subsequently expropriated for defensive purposes. In order to hold the ground the military government had to erect thereon a battery of little or any use which still exists.

**No. 11.—The Upper Governor's Garden and Mont Carmel:**

On Mount Carmel once stood a fortified redout and mill, which were razed on the completion of the fortifications.

**No. 12.—The King's Ordnance Stores and Wharf:**

**No. 13.—“Le Cul de Sac”:**

A wintering place for vessels, and site of the Champlain Market and wharf.

**No. 14.—The London Coffee House:**

A fashionable resort of the period. Dinners were given there, which even the Governor General sometimes attended.

**No. 15.—“La Traverse” or Landing place:**

From here we ascend to the Upper Town—passing through a narrow street to the market place—once, the usual place of executions where the pilory was in almost permanent use.

**No. 16.—The Church of N. D. des Victoires faces the square:**

In 1690 it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin

under the title of N. D. de la Victoire in memory of the defeat of Phipps before the city. This title was changed to that of N. D. des Victoires after the destruction of Admiral Walker's fleet in 1711.

**No. 17.—Prescott Gate:**

Ascending Mountain Hill, we pass through Prescott Gate, a massive structure joining by a wall the Castle St. Louis on the one side and on the other the grand battery, by a continuation of the fortifications. This gate was erect in 1797. It was named after General Robert Prescott.

**No. 18.—The Bishop's Palace:**

Within Prescott Gate and on the right we find the Bishop's Palace; one of the most ancient buildings in Quebec, having been begun soon after the erection of the See. It possessed a degree of historical interest standing on ground, the first cleared and cultivated in the country, and later the site of the first fort built by Champlain.

It was in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace, that the first parliament of the Province met in 1792.

**No. 19.—“Le Chien d'Or”:**

The steps from Prescott Gate led to Buade street. On the left hand we find the Philibert house, a three story building of black stone. It bore at different times the names of Prentiss' Hotel, Freemasons' Hall, etc., but was better known as the

House of the Golden Dog, for over the door was inserted a stone tablet bearing the effigy of a gilt dog gnawing a bone. Below the tablet was inscribed the date 1736. The Post Office now stands on the site.

The Golden Dog has given rise to one of our oldest traditions,—the murder of Philibert on the very steps of his house by De Repentigny, a minion of Bigot, and all that led up to it. Unfortunately historical data are quite at variance with the tradition and we may therefore come to the same conclusion about the Golden Dog that did Capt. John Knox in his Journal, October 10th 1759. "The true meaning of this device"—he "writes, I never could learn though I made every "possible inquiry without being gratified with the "least information respecting its allusions."

The quarrel between De Repentigny and Philibert was quite personal and had nothing whatever to do with any of the Intendants. As a matter of fact, Bigot, the supposed instigator of the murder was not even in the country, having arrived eight months after the occurrence.

#### **No. 20.—**

Turning to our left we emerge on the Place D'Armes facing which is the famous **Chateau St. Louis**, the most historic building in the country.

On this spot in 1623, Champlain began the con-

struction of a fort which however was never finished.

In 1647 the Chateau proper was begun by Governor Montmagny and completed by his successors. Until its destruction by fire in 1834, it was the official residence of the governors both french and english.

The original Chateau was a two story building with two wings and a gallery facing the river.

In 1792, Governor Haldimand built a new wing intended for balls and official receptions.

Sir James Craig, in 1809, added a third story to the older building and so completely renovated it, that it became known as the new chateau, whilst the Haldimand wing was called the old chateau.

Many writers have touched on the history of the Chateau and depicted some of the memorable events that took place within it's walls. It was here that Frontenac received Phipps' envoy and delivered his bold reply: "That he would answer his master from the cannon's mouth."

From these windows Vaudreuil gazed down in dismay at Saunders' great fleet of war vessels and transports and perhaps realized that the final struggle for the possession of half a continent was near at hand.

The destruction by fire of this historic building occurred January 23rd, 1834. Every possible effort was made to save it but in vain. Most of its



contents however were carried to places of safety. Among others the bust of General Wolfe, which stood at the head of the grand staircase.

**No. 21.—“The Union Hotel.”**

Why it was so named is difficult to determine, as it was begotten in strife and set one class of citizens at war with the other.

It comprised only four large rooms: on the ground floor, a coffee room and two dining rooms, the other and only apartment on the second floor being the ball room. An addition in the rear contained the kitchen, the living apartments of the proprietor and accommodation for 20 or 30 guests. Such was the swell hostelry of the period. Many festive scenes however were enacted within its walls. It was here that were held the balls of the Quebec Assemblies, as also the dinners of the “Club des Barons.” The premises, much altered in appearance are now occupied by a branch of the Union Bank, and Mr. Morgan’s Store.

**No. 22.—The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,**  
(ch. of England):

Stands on the other side of the square facing the Chateau. It was built on a portion of the ground once occupied by the Franciscan monastery and church destroyed by fire in 1796. The cathedral was consecrated in 1804. At that time, it was con-

sidered the only public building in the city with any pretension to architectural regularity.

It has little changed either exteriorly or interiorly since it was first erected.

This sacred edifice contains many beautiful and historical monuments; while, in the vestry may be seen the massive communion plate, a present from George III.

**No. 23.—The Court House:**

Like the Anglican Cathedral, was also built on a portion of the Franciscan grounds. It was finished in 1804 and destroyed by fire in 1872.

Opposite the St. Louis Hotel is what, is called the **Montcalm House**, certainly one of the most ancient buildings in the city, having been erected in 1678, but having no relation whatever with the heroic Marquis de Montcalm, On the other side of St. Louis street Stands.

**No. 24.—The Kent House.**

A portion of which is still older than it's neighbor dating as far back as 1636. For several years, it was the town residence of the Duke of Kent, father of the late Queen Victoria. The capitulation of the city was signed here by M. de Ramezay.

**No. 25.—The Ursuline Convent:**

The first monastery was completed in 1641, but destroyed by fire in 1650 as also it's successor, in 1686.

The Ursuline Convent contains many relics of the past. Among others some rare old paintings, the 'Lampe de Repentigny,' and most precious of all the skull of the Marquis de Montcalm whose body is interred in the chapel.

The Convent was occupied by General Murray during the winter of 1759-60, as also by many of the wounded british soldiers. In the basement may still be seen the apartments in which the nuns took refuge during the siege. Another precious relic is the table on which the first death sentence, that of "La Corriveau", was signed by Governor Murray.

**No. 26.—**

**The site of Dr. Arnould's house** where Montcalm died.

**No. 27.—**

Almost opposite, stands the **Gobert house**, where the remains of General Montgomery were brought after his unsuccessful attack on Quebec, December 31st, 1775. From there he was buried, in front of the powder magazine, on citadel hill near St. Louis Gate.

**No. 28.—St. Louis Gate:**

The erection of this gate goes back as far as 1694 but it was rebuilt in 1722, reconstructed on its original lines shortly after the occupation of

the city by the british, and finally removed in 1871.

**No. 29.—**

Returning to the Upper Town Market square, we come to the **R. C. Cathedral** or at it was originally called "La Paroisse", built under the auspices of Mgr de Laval and consecrated June 18th, 1666.

In general outline it differs little from the original structure. The walls were white washed but the same majestic belfry still stands like a giant sentry. During the siege of 1759 it was totally destroyed by shells fired from the heights of Levis. It's interior has undergone many alterations, but most of the wood work and sculpture remains the same as before, a sample of the high excellence the arts had attained in the early part of the last century.

**No. 30.—**

Across the square, stands the **Jesuits' College**, a noble structure. The first stone was laid with great ceremony in December 1635. It owes it's construction to the liberality of René Rohault, eldest son of the Marquis de Gamache. The young man on entering the order had endowed it with his patrimony. After many vicissitudes among others that of being turned into barracks for the british troops, it was finally demolished in

1877, and on it's site was erected our present city Hall.

**No. 31.—The Upper Town Market:**

In the centre stood the Market Hall, a circular construction a hundred feet in diameter and crowned by a wooden dome a hundred feet high. The lower portion was in stone but the dome and covering thereof in wood.

The public naturally murmured at the presence of such an eye sore in the centre of the city and even pointed out the danger of a general conflagration were it ever to take fire. Lambert in his travels says: "there is not an inhabitant of Quebec. "Who does not view it with disgust every time he "passes it, except the three magistrates, who no "doubt fancy they have immortalized themselves "by it's erection."

**No. 32.—The Seminary:**

Adjoining the Cathedral stands that ancient and eminent seat of learning, the Quebec Seminary, founded by Mgr. de Laval, in 1663. Like most other prominent buildings in the city, it also paid it's debt to the fire fiend.

Twice, during the life time of it's venerable founder it was razed to the ground by conflagrations, in 1701 and again in 1705. During the siege of 1759 it suffered considerable damage, and was partially destroyed again by fire in 1772. In

1865 it was once more visited by a conflagration which consumed almost half of the building. Finally on January 1st, 1888, its ancient chapel with its priceless paintings became the prey of the devouring element.

Towards the middle of the last century, the seminary developed into Laval University, which, with its new wings and additions, now forms a most conspicuous group of buildings.

**No. 33.—**

Near the Seminary and at the foot of Ste. Famille Street, stood **Hope Gate**, erected in 1786 by Col. Henry Hope, Commandant of the Forces and Lieutenant Governor of the Province. It was demolished in 1874.

**No. 34.—Montcalm's Residence:**

Proceeding along the Ramparts we next come to the residence of the Marquis de Montcalm. In his time and for years afterwards, it was of one story only, and the entrance was through a courtyard in the rear. It was never destroyed but instead, was enlarged by the addition of another story. It is now divided into three lodgings and faces the Ramparts.

**No. 35.—L'Hôtel-Dieu:**

The Hospitalières arrived with the Ursulines in 1639, and first settled in Sillery. When e they

withdrew to the city, 1644. The foundress of their Quebec Institution was Madame la Duchesse d'Aiguillon, niece of Cardinal Richelieu. The first hospital was opened to patients and the chapel consecrated in 1646. But as these buildings were in wood it was decided to rebuild them in stone, 1654. They were finished in 1658. Added, to in 1672, and again in 1696, when the hospital with its dependencies assumed the form depicted on the model.

**No. 36—Palace Gate:**

Which led to the Intendant's Palace, hence its name. The first one was built in 1694. That represented on the model, the second gate was erected in 1791. In 1830 or 1831, a more ornate one replaced it, and was demolished in 1874.

**No. 37.—The Military Barracks and Arsenal:**

The Arsenal proper was built in 1722 and the barracks in 1750. They are still in perfect condition. That part adjoining Palace Gate, was long used as a jail until a new one was erected on St. Stanislas hill. During that time the place of execution was immediately outside the walls on the Glacis, and was long known as Gallows' Hill.

**No. 38.—The New Jail:**

Already referred to, was opened in 1810. It is now the property of the Morrin College and the

home of the Literary and Historical Society, the oldest institution of its kind in Canada, having been founded in 1823. The vaults of the old prison, dark and gloomy are still preserved, and give one an idea of the severe treatment meted out to criminals in by gone days.

Th city was defended on the land side by a series of bastions extending from Cape Diamond to the crest of the cliff, overlooking the river St. Charles. They were connected together by strong walls, called curtains and pierced by two gates: St. Louis and St. John's, the latter built in 1722. These work were erected during the French regime. They are in succession.

**No. 39.—Cape Diamond Bastion:**

Commanding the upper St. Lawrence and the plains of Abraham.

**No. 40.—“Bastion de la Glacière.”**

**No. 41.—St. Louis Bastion:**

Where General Montgomery was buried, in front of the powder magazine.

Then comes St. Louis Gate.

**No. 42.—The St. Ursula Bastion:**

**No. 43.—St. John's Gate:**

Built in 1722, replaced by a more ornate one in 1865, and pulled down in later years.



**No. 44.—The St. John's Bastion:**

**No. 45.—“Bastion de la Potasse”,** overlooking the St. Charles river.

**No. 46.—The Intendant Palace:**

Stood outside Palace Gate. The first palace remarkable for its dimensions, its magnificence and ornate gardens, was erected in 1684 by Intendant De Meules. It formed with the King's stores three sides of a square. On the river side was a spacious garden. It was destroyed by fire in 1712, but rebuilt soon after on a scale of still greater magnificence. During the siege of 1775, American riflemen having taken up a position in the belfry, whence they galled the sentries on the ramparts, the guns of the adjoining batteries were turned on it, and it was totally destroyed. From 1747 to 1758, it was the residence of the infamous Bigot and his “coterie.”

**No. 47.—The King's Wood yard,** in rear of the Palace.

**No. 48.—Remains of the breakwater** built by Intendant Talon.

**No. 49.—**

(On the screen) the **General Hospital**, the best preserved of our Quebec Institutions, as it has never been destroyed by fire. It stands on ground

originally conceded to the Recollets, who erected their first convent there in 1620.

In 1670 on their return from France, they reentered into possession of their estate and continued there until 1690 when Mgr de St. Valier acquired it for the establishing of an hospital for incurables, the Recollets removing to the Upper Town.

The most ancient parts of the General Hospital have little changed since the time of the Recollets. In the chapel may still be seen the paintings and panellings by Frère Luc. The wards are absolutely the same as when the wounded after the two battles of the plains of Abraham, were brought there, within the cloister are the apartments at times occupied by Count Frontenac.

The cemetery opposite the main entrance, does not at first attract particular attention; but the fact that lie buried there more than 1,200 officers, soldiers and marines french, british and some americans invests it with a certain interest and reverence.

Among the french officers who sleep their last sleep in this tiny cemetery are fifteen Chevaliers de St. Louis, one of them deserving special mention, le Chevalier de Palmaroles, captain of grenadiers and hero of the Moulin à Dumont, in the second battle of the Plains, April 28th, 1760.

