

Pepperell, to attack the French fortress. A small English squadron joined the expedition, and the capture of the place was accomplished on June 16, 1745. The peace of Aix la Chapelle, in 1748, restored the fortress and the whole island to France, to the great disappointment of the New Englanders. Ten years later (July 26, 1758), the Seven Years' War having broken out, it again passed into the possession of Great Britain after a siege in which General Wolfe greatly distinguished himself.

The Capture of Quebec and Cession of Canada.—The expedition against



GENERAL WOLFE

Quebec was part of the war policy of the great William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, who chose Wolfe for the command. The story of how Wolfe's army scaled the heights above the city on the night of September 12-13, 1759, is among the best known of historical incidents. The battle that ensued on the morning of the 13th has been rightly looked upon as one of the most decisive events in the world's history. Wolfe died victorious; Montcalm, no less gallant a soldier, was carried from the field fatally wounded, and expired on the following day. Quebec surrendered to the British, and the capitulation of Montreal, a year later, placed the whole country in their possession, though the Treaty of Paris, by which Canada was ceded to Great Britain, was not signed till February 10, 1763.

Military Government.—For a period of fifteen years after 1759, the government of Canada was of a military character, and no small amount of confusion existed in the administration of justice and the general application of law to the affairs of the community. In the year 1774, an important step was taken in the passing of the Quebec Act, which established a council with limited legislative powers, sanctioned the use of French law in civil matters, confirmed the religious orders in the possession of their estates, granted full freedom for the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion and authorized the collection of the customary tithes by the clergy. The Act also defined the limits of Canada as extending south to the Ohio and west to the Mississippi. On that account, and also on account of the recognition granted to the Roman Catholic church, it gave great umbrage to the older colonies. The following year witnessed, in the battle of Lexington, the first bloodshed in their quarrel with the Mother Country.

Towards the end of 1775 two bodies of colonial troops marched against Canada, one under Montgomery by way of lake Champlain, and the other under Benedict Arnold through the woods of Maine. Montreal was captured and the two commanders joined forces some miles above Quebec. On December 31, each led an attack on that city from different quarters. Both attacks were repulsed; Montgomery was slain and Arnold was wounded. In the spring the Americans retreated and shortly afterwards evacuated the country. Canada had been saved by the Fabian policy of Carleton.

The Grant of Representative Institutions.—The task which devolved on Great Britain in the government of her new possession demanded an amount of practical wisdom which few of her statesmen possessed. The military men at