only point where the fort was weak. Could he but once succeed in reaching the heights of Abraham, he might induce the French commander to give him battle, and the possession of Quebec would be the fruit of victory.

Heights of Abraham.

The heights in question were about a mile above the city, and were guarded only by a feeble garrison; for a few men were deemed quite sufficient to prevent any number of assailants from climbing to their summit. Nor was it even dreamed of by the French that the English would attempt to do so; for the steep and rocky sides of the hill were nearly precipitous towards the river. Should the garrison be on its guard, repulse would be fatal.

Their ascent by Wolfe.

Nevertheless, undeterred by danger, Wolfe resolved to scale the heights. Accordingly, his army moved up the river a few miles, apparently with the intention of landing in several places; but when midnight approached, the troops were embarked in flat-bottomed boats, and rowed to the only spot where a landing could be effected, and an ascent made. They fortunately escaped the notice of the sentinels, and, before day, the whole army had ascended the narrow path which led them to the heights. Even then, the victory was but half won; for a battle, between nearly equal forces, must be fought before the city could be won. Had Montcalm retired behind the walls, it may well be doubted whether Wolfe could have reduced the city; but he advanced, with chivalrous ardour, to meet the enemy on equal ground. Both armies were destitute of artillery, with the exception of two small pieces on the side of the French, and a few which the English had contrived to hoist up after they had gained the summit of the heights. But the battle was scarcely less desperate on account of the absence of artillery. It raged with singular fierceness on both sides, and victory did not incline to the English until both commanders had been

Battle of Quebec.

mortally wounded. That battle decided the fate of Quebec. The city, five days after, capitulated, and has ever since remained in the hands of the victors.

Effects of the victory.

The conquest of Quebec, while it diffused universal joy throughout the British dominions, was dearly gained by the death of Wolfe, the most promising and successful general of whom England was proud, next to the Duke of Marlborough. The people mourned for him as they did for Nelson, half a century later, with unaffected grief. Had he lived, he would have been rewarded with estates, and titles, and decorations; but, cut off prematurely from life and its prizes, a grateful nation could only decree him a monument, and cherish the memory of his fame.

1760. French reverses.

The French made desperate efforts to recover the ground they had lost, while the English renewed their preparations for the entire subjugation of Canada. The campaign of 1760 opened, in the month of April, by the embarkation of ten thousand men from Montreal, under the command of M. de Levi, the successor of Montcalm, with the hope of recapturing Quebec. Murray, who had succeeded Wolfe, had hardly three thousand men, and his provisions were scarce. Wishing to avoid a siege, the English imprudently marched out from the garrison, and, giving battle to the French at Sillery, were defeated, and forced to retire behind their entrenchments. They soon after received supplies by sea from home; and the French, thinking that the whole English fleet, which had wintered at Halifax, had arrived, raised the siege, and retired to Montreal.

Against this last stronghold all efforts were now directed. Here the Marquis de Vaudreuil, governor-general of Canada, had fixed his head-quarters, determined to make a desperate stand, and had rallied around him all his scattered troops.

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The colonies assisted General Amherst all in their power, and three armies advanced from different directions towards Montreal, numbering altogether twenty thousand men,—regulars, militia and Indians. These armies, commanded respectively by Amherst, Haviland, and Murray, met nearly simultaneously, on the seventh of September, before Montreal. The French commander, perceiving that resistance was now hopeless, demanded a capitulation, and, the next day, surrendered to the English every place of strength in Canada.

Surrender of Montreal.

Thus fell the colonial possessions of France on the continent of America, with the exception of the infant settlement of Louisiana. Great was the exultation of England, and equally great that of the colonies, especially those of New England, who were now delivered from the scourge of Indian war on the frontiers.

War with the Cherokees.

The southern colonies were, however, involved in a war with the Cherokees, which the Virginians had provoked, and which the French had stimulated. A party of Cherokees, retiring from assisting the English against Fort Du Quesne, having lost their horses, seized such as they could find in the woods, which happened to belong to the Virginians. Inconsiderately this violation of the rights of property was resented, and several Indians were killed. The Cherokees, incensed at receiving such treatment from those whom they had but just assisted, vowed revenge. Receiving arms from the French, and incited by their intrigues, they plunged into a furious war with their former friends, and commenced a desolating incursion on the frontiers. Virginia and the two Carolinas combined for mutual defence. A large force marched into the territories of the Cherokees, when the Indians submitted without bloodshed, and concluded a treaty of peace. But, their chiefs being insulted by the governor of South Carolina,

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they renewed their incursions. General Amherst, on being made acquainted with the dangers to which the southern colonies were subjected, sent a detachment of Highlanders, under Colonel Montgomery, to their relief. These, united with provincial troops, marched into the Cherokee country, committing most destructive ravages, and routing the Indians in a great battle near Etchoe, their central settlement. He then withdrew his troops from Carolina, and rejoined the British army, 1760.

Defeat of the Cherokees.

As soon as he was gone, the Indians rallied, and committed new ravages. A second application was made to General Amherst; and the Highland regiment, under Colonel Grant, was ordered back to Carolina. New levies were also made by the provinces in 1761, and Grant was enabled to prosecute hostilities at the head of twenty-six hundred men. On the tenth of June, he encountered the Indians where Montgomery had fought the year before, and routed them with great slaughter, laying waste their corn-fields and villages. The defeated Cherokees sought refuge in the mountain defiles, and, humbled and subdued, sued for peace, which was granted; and the colonies enjoyed complete repose.

French losses in the West Indies.

Nor were English successes limited to the conquest of Canada, and the suppression of Indian hostilities. Guadaloupe, Martinique, and all the Caribbean Islands, fell into their possession. The French fleet was ruined, and England obtained the sovereignty of the seas.

Death of George II.

Meanwhile, George II. died, October 25th, 1760; and in the following year, that great man, by whose genius glory had shone upon the British arms, had ceased to be minister. George III. did not like the ascendency he had gained, and was ambitious of ruling alone.

Scarcely had Pitt retired, before war broke out between Spain and England, by which the former lost Havana, and

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incurred the ruin of her colonial commerce. The brilliant successes of the English, not in America merely, but in India and every quarter of the globe, induced the humbled powers of France and Spain to enter into negotiations for peace. In 1763, a treaty was signed at Paris, by which Great Britain retained Canada, and indeed the whole country east of the Mississippi, New Orleans alone excepted. Louisiana, west of the Mississippi, together with New Orleans, was ceded to Spain. Havana was exchanged for Florida. France lost all the territory on the American continent for which she had so zealously contended; and nothing remained of her conquests but her language, religion and laws, which even British legislation could not take away from the *habitans* of Canada, or the planters of Louisiana.

Treaty of Paris.

Its beneficial effect on the colonies.

To none was peace more grateful than to the colonies in North America, who had borne a large share of the burdens of the war, but who, by its glorious termination, could look forward to security and prosperity. British glory and American safety seemed to be identified. There never was a time when the colonies were bound to Great Britain by such general sentiments of affection and esteem, gratitude and hope. Had England cherished these sentiments, the colonies might have been long preserved. But the avarice, jealousy and pride in which England indulged, weakened those sentiments which constituted her real power; and a spirit of resistance was enkindled, which gradually ripened into a revolutionary passion.

Their continued growth.

Nor did this long war with the French and Indians arrest, though it may have impeded, the growth of the colonies. In physical resources, as well as in population, they all continued to increase. The conquest of Canada, and the subjection of the eastern Indians, gave a new

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impulse to the settlement of Maine; and the counties of Cumberland and Lincoln were added to York. New settlers occupied the coast, also, from the Kennebec to the Penobscot, and emigrants from New England sought the distant territories of the Acadians.

New Hampshire.

New Hampshire equally profited by the peace of Paris, from which may be dated the prosperity of the province, which contained, at this time, over fifty thousand people. Emigrants also came from other colonies, now that external danger was removed, and penetrated not only to the interior, but even into Vermont, whose "Green Mountain Boys" were soon to be distinguished in the struggle with the mother country.

Massachusetts.

Massachusetts contained at this time a population of two hundred and fifty thousand, of whom over five thousand were slaves. Connecticut numbered one hundred and fifty thousand, with a still greater proportion of slaves. Rhode Island had forty thousand, of whom one-tenth were enslaved. In New England there were five hundred and thirty Congregational churches, still characterized for Puritan principles.

New York.

New York contained about a hundred and twenty-five thousand people, and its largest town was already celebrated for mercantile thrift and enterprise. No reliable account of the population of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, or Georgia, has been handed down; but all of these colonies kept pace with the others in prosperity. About this time, the passion for emigration to more western sections began, and the Valley of Wyoming on the Susquehannah was planted by an association from Connecticut.

Virginia.

Virginia at this time contained about two hundred thousand souls, half of whom were slaves. Tobacco was still the great article which occupied the attention of the

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colonists, nearly seventy thousand hogsheads being annually exported. In the more southern colonies, rice and indigo formed the most important articles of exportation. Cotton, which has since become the great staple of the South, was not yet cultivated.

Literature and the arts.

Nor were the interests of education neglected with the material growth of the colonies. New schools and colleges arose. Lawyers began to obtain more public consideration. The fine arts were advanced by Copley and West, and eminent scholars appeared in every department to which genius was directed.

BOOK V.

CHAPTER I.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

Bk. V. Ch. 1. A. D. 1763 to 1775.

Greatness of the American revolution.

THE American Revolution, in whatever light it may be viewed, was the grand event of the eighteenth century, and one of the most momentous, in its consequences, in the whole history of society. It excited intense interest throughout the civilized world, when it took place, and its effect has been constantly progressive. All other subjects of American history are certainly tame in comparison with it. It is memorable for the great deeds of heroes, for the development of unknown energies, for the establishment of a new western empire, for the shock it gave to political power in Europe, for the impulse it communicated to the cause of liberty throughout the world, and for the hope it inspired, among all oppressed people, of their own future triumph.

This great event might have been delayed, had the government of England been gifted with greater political sagacity, and had it exercised more prudence and moderation. But blindness, arrogance, and a spirit of oppression, are as natural to an unboundedly prosperous nation, as the development of great energies among those who are industrious and self-reliant.

When the peace of Paris was signed, England had