

took charge of the conduct of the war. Pitt had first attracted attention as an opponent of the peace policy of Walpole, and had been known as the "Boy Patriot." In 1746, he had entered the ministry, but had not, so far, held any position of great importance. The continuous disasters to the British arms, and the feeling of dismay with which these were regarded in the country, brought him to the front. An arrangement was made by which Pitt was given entire control of the war, although Newcastle remained as prime minister. His enthusiasm at once spread itself to the Parliament and to the people. He had great faith in his country and in himself. "I know that I can save the country," he said to a friend, "and no one else can."

The hand of Pitt was soon evident in all the operations of the war. Incompetent officers were allowed no place in either the army or the navy, but young men of ability, even if they were poor and unknown, were given important commands. The Commons gave him its strongest support, and voted large sums of money. He confined his efforts in Europe to giving financial assistance to Frederick, while in America and India he pushed the war with all the energy of which he was capable. Well might Frederick of Prussia say, "England has at length brought forth a man."

224. **The conquest of Canada.**—In America the British had not been successful. General Braddock had been defeated at Fort Duquesne and the greater part of his army destroyed in 1755. In the following year the fortress of Oswego, which commanded Lake Ontario, yielded to the French, and this capture was followed by the seizure of Fort William Henry, an important British stronghold at the southern end of Lake George. But new life was given to the seemingly desperate campaign by Pitt's advent to power. He saw that if anything was to be accomplished, he must send plenty of men and his very best generals, with full authority to act as they thought best. The colonies were urged to co-operate with the king's troops, and they responded by raising a force of twenty thousand men. In 1758 Louisburg, a French stronghold in Cape Breton, was captured,