

King.

of unalloyed happiness and chivalry of the sweet-call of duty, left aged sires and strip freedom on far away undefinable, shivering dark, mysterious forest, to emerge a murderous and savage.

Justified when, on the night that a body of Tory men, son's Royal Greens under the command of the possession of Fort a few miles distant. discovered than the at their homes, hurried, at a palisaded Abulon Butler, a soldier and Indian war, as patriots. A council of the desperate altercation by surprise was but for an untoward his danger. As it in line of battle for ded the right of the Col. Dennison, assisted of the Americans and as Col. John Butler enemy, resting upon or posed of Indians and of battle was a par-

rock in the afternoon, es with great spirit. rely as they fired, and lled to fall back. At swarm of screeching nison and suddenly

like a dark cloud fell upon his rear. Sorely harassed Col. D. ordered his command to fall back which was mistaken by the men for an order to retreat. This misconception was fatal. A panic ensued and the Americans fled towards Fort Forty pursued by the Indians, who with their tomahawks and spears wrought terrific slaughter and committed deeds of wanton and revolting cruelty. The few survivors who escaped the carnage and succeeded in reaching the fort were soon besieged by throngs of excited Indians and Tories. Possessing no adequate means of defence, and having no expectation or hope of succor the patriots yielded to the entreaties of the women and children and capitulated, the terms of surrender being that the besieged should no longer fight against the crown and should yield possession of all provincial stores to the conquerors, who in turn promised them immunity from the scalping knife and tomahawk, and undisturbed possession of their homes and clearings. The Indians, however, could not be restrained. No lives were taken after the surrender, but the destruction of houses and property was pursued with merciless persistency until the vale became a scene of hideous, smouldering desolation. Many of the terror-stricken inhabitants sought safety in flight, and many of them fell by the way, perishing from sickness and hunger.†

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Thus far I have attempted to give a summary of this tragic event, as the sober muse of history has recorded it, and which is popularly known as the Massacre of Wyoming. The enchanting theatre of this exciting drama,—the picturesque actors, patriot, tory, royal green and painted savage, and the terrible scenes of suffering, upon which the curtain falls,

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† "More than two-thirds of their number [the patriotic forces] were massacred by the Indians and Tories with every circumstance of savage cruelty, not even the prisoners being spared. Some of the latter were put to death on the evening of the battle, Queen Esther, a half-breed Indian woman, to avenge the death of her son, tomahawked fourteen with her own hands near a rock which still bears her name."—Appleton's Am. Cyclopaedia. *Title, Wyoming.* Col. Butler's official report agrees with Col. Claus' statement that only two white men in his command were killed and that the casualties included about a dozen Indians wounded. The reader cannot help contrasting this result with that of Oriskany where the desperate valor of the colonists shone conspicuously.