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### THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,  
1764-84.

#### CHAPTER XXXIV.

By not operating on a well defined line the British Generals laid their plans open to the option of the enemy to cut off their expeditions in detail, and of this advantage Washington availed himself. On the night of the 15th of July the American General, Wayne, at the head of 1500 men surprised the Fort at Stoney Point, whose garrison, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Johnson of the 18th Regiment, consisted of that corps, the Grenadier company of the 71st, a company of the Regiment of Loyal Americans, and a detachment of artillery, in all about 600 men, of which 152 were killed or wounded, the rest with their commanding officer made prisoners. This post was lost by the most culpable negligence. An expedition under the American Gen. How was sent against Fort Lafayette, at the same time, but owing to the difficulties of the approaches it did not arrive in time, and although the guns of Stoney Point were turned against that garrison it failed to make any impression.

Intelligence of the capture of Stoney Point having reached New York a detachment was sent up the river to the relief of Fort Lafayette, and Sir H. Clinton immediately followed with a greater force hoping Washington would risk an engagement for the preservation of the command of the river, but the latter had accomplished his design of retarding the expedition to Connecticut if not preventing it altogether, and as Stoney Point was not essentially necessary to the command of the river he ordered it to be evacuated after most of the works being destroyed. Possession was again taken of it by the British, who repaired the works and placed a larger garrison therein. The fleet and troops having achieved this success returned to New York.

In 1776 the people of Boston had attempt-

ed to gain possession of Fort Cumberland but were driven off. A second attempt was made at St. John's River but was also defeated as well as a fleet of privateers captured which had been committing depredations on the various fishing stations on the coast of Nova Scotia. In order to prevent any repetition of those annoyances Gen. Francis Maclean, commanding the Royal troops in Nova Scotia, with a detachment of 650 men arrived in June, 1779, in the bay of Penobscot, for the purpose of establishing a fortified post to hold the privateers about Kennebec bay in check and to prevent the re-occupation of Machias as a military post and base of operations against Acadia and Nova Scotia, as well as to obtain a supply of ship-building timber with which the country abounded. Alarmed at this demonstration the people of Boston at once fitted out an expedition to drive away the King's troops and destroy the post. Intelligence of this movement being carried to New York Sir George Collier with a squadron sailed on the 3rd of August for the relief of General Maclean's settlement, which had been placed on the eastern side of Penobscot Bay, about nine miles below the mouth of the river on a peninsula forming the harbor of Magabagduce. As the country was wholly covered with wood it occupied the troops for some time before a clearing could be effected on which to erect a fort, and on the 21st of July only two bastions with the connecting curtains were raised to a height of five feet, when intelligence was received that the Boston fleet of 19 armed ships and brigantines carrying from 10 to 32 guns, might be expected to land on the 25th with a force of 3,000 men under command of Gen. Lincoln.

All thoughts of completing the fort were laid aside and the troops employed night and day on such works as were immediately necessary to secure them from an assault, which it was justly apprehended would be the mode resorted to by the enemy in consequence of the very superior force employed. Three sloops of war belonging to the British were stationed so as to command the mouth of the harbour and were protected by a battery on shore—and on the arrival

of the Boston force they could not effect an entrance owing to the fire of those vessels and the battery. After three days detention they effected a landing on the morning of the 23th of July, at a point on the Peninsula which had been deemed inaccessible, and on the 30th opened a battery against the works at a distance of 750 yards. Those works, by the incessant labor of the troops between the 21st and 30th of July, had assumed a respectable appearance. The gorge of an unfinished bastion was filled with logs, and the other, containing the well, was surrounded with a work of fascines and earth ten feet thick, platforms were laid, artillery mounted, a sort of *chevaux de frize* carried round the fort and the approaches to the whole covered with an abatis.

The enemy's troops carried on a series of approaches and skirmishes for a fortnight. On the morning of the 14th of August the garrison, in momentary expectation of an assault, were surprised to find that the enemy had re-embarked with the greater part of their artillery, and while wondering what could be the cause of this sudden evacuation the British squadron under Sir George Collier hove in sight, which at once explained the mystery as it stood directly up the bay. The Boston fleet seemed to be in disorder and at length took to flight in a disgraceful manner. Two of them endeavored to get to sea by passing round Long Island but were interrupted, one being taken and the other ran ashore by her crew and blown up. The rest fled towards the head of the bay and entered the Penobscot River but were all captured or destroyed, the seamen and soldiers abandoning the vessels and took to the woods; here mutual recrimination between the two services brought on a fight in which 50 or 60 were killed, and a great number perished of hunger and fatigue before they were able to reach the settlements about the Kennebec.

The Boston fleet taken or destroyed was as follows:—Taken: Warren, of 32 guns; Monmouth, 24 guns; Vengeance, 24 guns; Putnam, 22 guns; Hampden, 22 guns; Hunter, 18 guns. Blown up: Sally, 22 guns; Hector, 20; Black Prince, 18; Sky Rocket,