



# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. III.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1869.

No. 38.

### THE BRAVE AT HOME.

BY THOMAS DUCHANAN READ.

The maid who binds her warrior's sash  
With a smile her pain dissembles,  
The while beneath her drooping lash  
One starry tear-drop hangs and trembles,  
Though heaven alone records the tear,  
And Fame shall never know her story;  
Her heart had shed a drop as dear  
As e'er bedewed the field of glory!

The wife who girds her husband's sword,  
Mid little ones who weep or wonder,  
And bravely speaks the cheering word,  
What though her heart be rent asunder,  
Doomed nightly in her dreams to hear  
The balls of death around him rattle,  
Hath shed as sacred blood as e'er  
Was poured upon the field of battle!

The mother who conceals her grief  
While to her breast her son she presses,  
Then breathes a few brave words and brief,  
Kissing the patriot brow she blesses,  
With no one but her secret God  
To know the pain that weighs upon her,  
Sheds holy blood as e'er the sod  
Received on Freedom's field of honor!

### THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,

1764-84.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The course of this review has now reached what may properly be called the "Invasion of the United States by Great Britain;" the evacuation of Boston on 19th March, 1776, marking the true termination of British rule.

If the operations of the British armies in America are to be taken as a criterion of the military capabilities of the Empire it is certain that if judged by the rules of warfare the scientific and practical knowledge of English Generals and the war department would rank very low indeed. During those eventful contests--the campaigns of 1754-64, 1764-84 and the war of 1812-14 the military operations in America have been characterized by a total absence of plan, design, or strategical significance. On all those occasions a series of petty raids marked the character of the operations and illustrated the total want of military genius in the generals commanding. Accessible through its large and navigable rivers, vulnerable at all its most vital points, no country in the

world is so thoroughly defenceless as the United States from Maine to Florida, and yet in no theatre of war has so many blunders been made or operations undertaken so totally unconnected and aimless. In the contest of 1754-64 Amherst's single campaign of 1759 was the only one that had a plan and Canada would have been subjugated if it were not for the blundering procrastination and stupidity of Gage. In 1764-84 no plan at all was followed. It is true Carleton attempted to sketch out a design by which, using Canada as a base of operations, and moving on the Hudson by way of Lake Champlain, he would have separated the Northern and Southern States and crushed the rebellion at a blow; without resources and soldiers, he only saved Canada by a mere chance, and as he was not trusted by the War Department nor the ministry his after efforts were confined to the defence of his own Province.

Towards the close of 1775, as has been narrated, the Governor of North Carolina had been obliged to take refuge on board ship, from thence he opened a communication with the Scotch emigrants and a lot of lawless borderers known as Regulators; the then social condition of the Provinces (most of the wild lands being held by great companies in immense patents) being favorable to the production of this class, partly from their aversion to recognize or pay any legal impost for the occupancy of the land partly because those Provinces had been used as a sort of penal settlement for nearly a century. Where considerable difficulty existed in administering law its penalties were easily evaded and its provisions defied and treated with contempt. Those men, detesting the Republican party, agreed to take measures to put them down by force. but Mr. Martin appears to have been one of those incapable Governors which the imbecility of the British cabinet had imposed on the public service, and having first by his timidity compromised the honor of Great Britain at this juncture he succeeded by precipitation in destroying her interests. Such men are generally surrounded by favorites of kindred abilities--one of them a gentleman named

Macdonald, and another named Macleod, were created, the first, a Brigadier-General, the second Lieut.-Colonel, with orders to raise the Royal Standard and summons all loyal men to rally in its support. But commissions will not make the holders thereof soldiers nor repair the blunders of those who have abandoned positions which should have been held while life remained. If Governor Martin, instead of consulting his own personal safety on board ship, had dissolved his unruly Legislative Assembly, raised the Royal Standard and appealed directly to the people he would have crushed the rebellion in the bud and compelled obedience to the laws. The number which rallied around the Royal Standard even at this late period proved how little headway rebellious principles had really obtained and how easily those would have been eradicated by vigorous and efficient measures.

The force to be raised by the Brigadier and Lieut.-Colonel was intended to act in conjunction with a body of troops expected in early spring, but which did not arrive in time for co-operation; and this was another grand mistake made by those who represented England's royalty in the Colonies. They could do nothing without troops. The means of communication were slow, three months being frequently occupied in the transit between England and the Colonies. They had only farmers and mechanics to oppose to people of the same class, but they let them, while waiting for the Royal forces concentrate, embody, and drill while they did nothing, so when their great reinforcements landed they had to encounter men partially drilled and with considerable confidence in themselves. Mr. Martin should have gone on shore, marshalled his levies and led them at once on the capital of his Province.

Instead of doing this he allowed those who had usurped the Government, which he so shamefully abandoned, to embody six regiments and actually to occupy his objective point--Wilmington--with one of them, under the command of a Colonel Moore, who had held that commission in the Provincial Service, but whose knowledge of military affairs was very trifling.