

PREFACE

Of this portentous War of Disunion the following pages take but slight notice of four minor episodes.

Clinton's ill-advised expedition to Charleston, not, indeed, of his own choosing; the foolish and feeble attack on Canada by Montgomery and Benedict Arnold; the wasteful and purposeless occupation of Rhode Island; and the evil counsels which sent St. Leger to Stanwix with a body of men less numerous than the advance troops of a modern reconnaissance, must have had some influence on the struggle, but being in themselves either failures in execution, or futile in project, it has been thought prudent not to overload these chapters with extended notice of them.

The design of this book has been to reproduce in outlines the local and material conditions of the time, and to depict the moral and social background of the struggle. Hence are submitted for consideration some account of the life, the interests, and topography of the venerable city of Boston; of New York, ever sprightly from its early youth; of Philadelphia, so proud of its title of *The City of Homes*.

The chief actors on this stage are General George Washington, General Sir William Howe, K.B., Lieut.-General Sir John Burgoyne, General the Hon. Thomas Gage, Mr. Samuel Adams, his cousin Mr. John Adams, subsequently a President of the United States, and