

even to create a commonwealth, it breathed its inspiring word to the first settlers of Kentucky; so that hunters who made their halt in the matchless valley of the Elkhorn, commemorated the nineteenth of April by naming their encampment Lexington."

From the north to the south from the east to the west the whole country was aroused. Every man, woman and child heard the voice of their God.

"Strike for your altars and your fires,
Strike for the green graves of your sires,
Strike till every armed foe expires,
Strike for God and your native land."

Every colony in meeting assembled drew up firm resolutions in support of the men of Massachusetts in the work they had so nobly begun. The condition of the English army was daily becoming more and more precarious. Shut up within a small city, before them the Americans, whose worth they now knew so well, and behind them the sea. Several ships carrying supplies were intercepted and captured by the patriots. The army could not make a sally, and was forced to remain cooped up, with but the necessities of life.

The patriot army was increasing rapidly but there was little discipline or order, and very few were well equipped. New Hampshire had promised to send two thousand men, of which number about twelve hundred arrived. They were under the command of brigadier Folsom, but John Stark, a veteran of the French and Indian war, was their most trusted officer. With Spenser and Putnam came from Connecticut a body of twenty three hundred. Nathaniel Greene with one thousand men appeared from Rhode Island, to prove the dauntless courage of

that little state. From all other states came words of encouragement, and offers of assistance. The uprising had become general, and the people had determined to win by force of arms, what was denied them, when they employed peaceful means.

At this juncture Congress assembled and appointed George Washington to the position of commander in chief. This nomination carried with it public approval and confidence. The man himself was brave, experienced, of unblemished character, a true American.

Let us now return to the army encamped before Boston. The men were, for the most part, eager to commence the war, but wholly unfit for service, because of their inexperience and poor equipments. Few had ever seen a battle, much less, participated in one. Still they were brave and ready to risk anything for their cause. In nearly every company there were great numbers absent, with or without furlough. There was a great necessity of money, of clothing, of engineers, but more than all, of ammunition. As yet, no one had been appointed to act as commander-in-chief during the absence of Washington. Consequently, the soldiers from each colony obeyed their own leader, and him only, thus preventing any concerted action.

The English army on the other hand was well equipped, disciplined, and under officers who had seen service on many a hard-fought field. Moreover on the fifth of May large reinforcements arrived together with Generals Howe, Bourgoyne and Clinton, all soldiers of high reputation. Bourgoyne on entering Boston Harbor descried the American camp, and sarcastically exclaimed "What! ten thousand peasants keep five