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I DRINK TO THEE.

BY CARROLL RYAN.

I drink to thee!—The guests have gone;
The revelry is o'er,
The chaplets, that were late upon
Their brows, are on the floor;
While ghostly shadows, one by one,
Come gliding thro' the door.
But what are they to you or me?
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

I drink to thee!—The crystal bowl
Is flooded to the rim;
It is an emblem of the soul
That sparkles to the brim
With love for thee, complete and whole,
Not, like these spectres, dim.
But what are they to you or me?
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

Aye, what are they!—This ghostly crew—
These silent memories
Of things I felt, or saw, or know,
Perhaps beyond the seas,
When hearts were loving, kind and true,
Not shadows such as these.
But what are they to you or me?
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

I drink to thee!—The empty glass
Is shivered on the wall,
And, one by one, the spectres pass
Adown the dark'ning hall,
And I am left alone, alas!
Alone—and that is all.
But what are they to you or me?
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,

1764—84.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Colonel St. Leger's expedition advanced to Fort Stanwix (now Rome) on the Mohawk without molestation, although the line of march was open to successful attack. It was over the old route from Oswego by the river to Onondaga Lake, thence by Wood Creek to the portage between it and the Mohawk. At the head of this portage stood Fort Stanwix, a square log fort with four bastions, and a stockaded covered way, but no other outworks, garrisoned by 700 Americans. St. Leger at once invested the

work and summoned the garrison to surrender, but Col. Gansevoort, the officer in command, knowing that General Harkimer, with 1,000 soldiers, was at hand, refused compliance.

On the 6th August an action commenced at Oriskany, eleven miles beyond Fort Stanwix, in which Gen. Herkimer was defeated, losing 400 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. During the action a Colonel Willet with a part of the garrison made a sally from the fort and succeeded in capturing a large quantity of provisions and other material which St. Leger had left without adequate guard. Notwithstanding the garrison was hardly pressed, and would have been obliged to surrender if Arnold had not been detached to their relief with 2,000 men and ten pieces of artillery. This had such an effect on the Indian auxiliaries that they precipitately retired, and St. Leger appears to have followed suite without any adequate reason on the 26th of August. He left his tents standing, baggage, artillery and stores, as well as his own private papers, fell into the hands of the enemy. The primary cause of failure was the small number of men sent on the expedition, inefficiency of the artillery (four pounders), and a want of sagacity in the mode of employing his Indian allies.

Burgoyne's fatal delay at Fort Edward enabled Gen. Schuyler to send Arnold to the relief of Fort Stanwix, and this was the direct cause of the loss of the British army, for had Burgoyne pushed on to Albany he would have driven the American army, disheartened by defeat and in want of everything, before him. No relief could be sent to Fort Stanwix, which must have fallen through starvation. St. Leger would then be within 125 miles of Albany with a loyal population, especially about the Johnson settlement, to aid him and no military obstruction between himself and Albany.

The difficulty of subsisting so large a force and apparently mismanagement of the transport service, as well as the insane and foolish desire of the British General to haul a large train of artillery with his troops rendered it necessary to seek draught horses and cattle for the supply of the army. As

it was well known that a regular depot of those animals were to be found at Bennington, where they had been collected for the use of the American armies from Connecticut and the New Hampshire grants (now Vermont), and as the English General had left the Hudson open for the purpose it is to be presumed of enabling the Americans to fight with comfort, it became necessary to detach a force adequately prepared to effect the object in view.

Accordingly on the 9th August Burgoyne detached a force of 600 men, principally Germans, under Colonel Baume, an officer of the Hessian auxiliaries, with orders to scour the country from Rockingham to Otter Creek, to go down the Connecticut River as far as Brattleborough and return by the great road to Albany, thus making the enemy believe it was the advance of the British army on its way to Boston.

The object of the expedition was in reality to try what portion of the population were well affected toward the British and to obtain supplies of cattle and horses. To effect this he entrusted the command to a foreigner not able to speak the language of the people, liable to be drunk when wanted, and to troops unable to understand a word of English, and notorious for robbing friend or foe with undeviating impartiality. Moreover, the very nature of the service demanded activity, decision, a thorough knowledge of the people, and a scrupulous respect for property. Now, those German troops were slow marchers, and the draughts comprising a part of the expedition equipped with hats and swords so ponderous as nearly to weigh as much as the full equipment of a British soldier.

Bennington is situated about 35 miles south-east from Fort Edward, on the Walloomsack Creek. It is north-east of the direct road to Albany, and at the time of expedition was unoccupied by troops of any description, but Baume's dilatory proceedings and his object thereby becoming known reached the American General Starke at Manchester, 20 miles north-east of Bennington, on the 12th of August, he at once collected his force of 1000 men with which he