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### THE TROOPER'S STORY.

I plead guilty to it? yes, I do;  
 for I have never lied, and shall not now;  
 give me a dog's leave to say a word  
 touching what happened, and the why and  
 how.

The night-guard went their rounds that night at  
 my post was in the lower dungeon range,  
 level with the moat, all slime and ooze  
 and damp: but there, 'tis fit we change and  
 change.

The sentinels. Besides 'twas in a sort  
 the place of honor, or of trust, we'll say;  
 in the cell there with mortised door  
 the young boy-lord, guilty of treason, lay.

With my partisan I'd tramped an hour  
 in the dark there—just a lantern hung  
 on the wet wall—when close at hand I heard  
 my own name spoken by a woman's tongue.

My hair was like to lift my morion up,  
 for the keep's haunted; but I turned, to see  
 a woman like a ghost—white face, all white,  
 ready to drop, and not a yard from me.

How she had come there God in heaven knows  
 however, long before my tongue I'd found,  
 as she came out of her hair the white pearls, big,  
 as pidgeons' eggs, and then dropped to the  
 ground.

"The word," she said, "only one word with him:  
 he dies to-morrow! See, my pearls I give,  
 bracelets too"—she slit them from her arms—  
 "one word, and, I will bless you while I live!"

"Your face is stern. Oh, but one word, one word!"  
 with my big hand I set her on her feet;"

"She cling to me, would not be thrust off,  
 still pleading in a bird's voice, soft and sweet.

"Only one word with him!" that was her plea:  
 "one word; he would be dead at break of day!"

"And my heart melted: yes, she had her way.

"They spoke together. Did I hear? Not I;  
 how ask me if I took her bribes. Well, there,  
 you know the rest—know how yon Judas-spy,  
 yon starveling cur, crawled down the winding  
 stair;

"And how he caught the bird fast in the cage,  
 and made report of me with eager breath  
 and breach of duty. Right; it was a breach,  
 and that means, in our soldier-fashion, death!"

"Well, I can face it: I'm no craven hound  
 to shake yonder Judas-spy. Nay, had I leave  
 to strike his weasand for him, as I'd slice  
 an onion, I'd meet death and never grieve.

hunting grounds and renew the war with  
 good hope of success in the Spring. The  
 Chief of the Mississagas, a branch of the  
 Ojibawas, came to the Fort on the 13th Oct.  
 as a deputy from the Pottawatamies, Ojibawas  
 and Wyandots, and concluded a truce till a  
 definite peace could be agreed on with Sir  
 William Johnston.

Gladwyn took advantage of this lull to  
 collect sufficient provisions for his garrison  
 during winter, in which he succeeded so well  
 that he could afford to set the enmity of the  
 savages at defiance.

The Ottawas alone refused to come to any  
 terms; but on the 30th October a letter ar-  
 rived from M. Neyon, the French command-  
 ant at Fort Chartres, in the Illinois country,  
 in which he warned Pontiac that no assis-  
 tance would be given him, that peace was  
 established between the English and French,  
 and that the rule of the latter had ceased in  
 Canada; he also advised him to forbear all  
 hostile actions and conclude peace at once.  
 This so mortified Pontiac that he withdrew  
 from Detroit to the River Maumee, with the  
 design of stirring up the tribes in that vicin-  
 ity and resuming hostilities in the Spring.  
 The siege of Detroit was thus partially, raised  
 and the brave little garrison left to contend  
 with their only enemy, the winter.

About the middle of November, not many  
 days after Pontiac's departure, two friendly  
 Wyandots crossed the river and demanded  
 admission to the Fort; one of them unstrung  
 his powder horn and unscrewing the bottom  
 took out a letter from Major Wilkins, com-  
 manding at Niagara, which stated that an  
 expedition for the relief of Detroit had been  
 overtaken by a storm on Lake Erie, many of  
 the boats wrecked, seventy men drowned,  
 and all the stores and ammunition had been  
 destroyed, and that the remainder had to  
 return to Niagara. As far as the garrison of  
 Detroit was concerned the campaign of 1763  
 was closed.

At that period the British settlements did  
 not extend beyond the Alleghanies: in New  
 York they were bounded by the Mohawk  
 River, and in Pennsylvania the town of  
 Bedford might be regarded as the frontier,  
 while the settlements of Virginia extended

to a corresponding distance. This frontier  
 was guarded by a line of military posts,  
 those on the East lying in the country of the  
 Six Nations were joined by the Hudson, Mo-  
 hawk, Wood Creek, the Oneida Lake and  
 River Oswego, all nearly on the site of the  
 present Erie Canal of which the Lake is the  
 summit level; it was defended by Forts Stan-  
 wix, Brewerton, Oswego and two or three  
 smaller posts. Near the Western end of  
 Lake Ontario stood Fort Niagara at the  
 mouth of the river of the same name. It was  
 a strong and extensive work, commanding  
 the route by Oswego as well as that by the  
 St. Lawrence. A portage past the great  
 falls enabled the voyageur to reach open  
 water above the rapids, the next post to  
 which was Presqu' Isle, on Lake Erie, where  
 the town of Erie now stands. There had  
 been erected a temporary post at or near  
 the present site of Buffalo, at the head of  
 the portage, called Fort Schlosser. From  
 Presqu' Isle a good waggon road of twelve  
 miles led to Fort Le Bœuf, on a branch of  
 the Alleghany River, and thence to Venango  
 by water, the next post being Fort Pitt (or  
 du Quesne), erected by General Stanwix in  
 1759 on the ruins of the old French fort  
 whose erection kindled the flame of war.  
 It was a strong fortification, with earthen  
 ramparts, faced with brick on the side look-  
 ing down the Ohio. Two roads led from  
 Fort Pitt to the settlements—that cut by  
 General Braddock's expedition in 1756 to  
 Fort Cumberland, about 113 miles; the  
 other, constructed by General Forbes in  
 1758, was more frequented, and passed by  
 Carlisle and Bedford to Philadelphia. The  
 first post from the fort was Ligonier, dis-  
 tance 56 miles; thence to Fort Bedford,  
 44 miles; thence to Carlisle, on the Susque-  
 hanna, was 97 miles; thence to Harris-  
 Ferry, 23 miles. This is now called Harris-  
 burg. Immediately after passing the river  
 the settlements were reached.

As early as 27th May the commandant at  
 Fort Pitt had his suspicions aroused by the  
 conduct of the Indians, who had murdered  
 several persons near the fort. An express  
 was sent to Venango to warn the garrison  
 of its danger, but he returned almost imme-

### THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

#### CHAPTER XX.

The schooner so boldly defended by her  
 crews brought a much needed supply of pro-  
 visions, but it was not adequate to the sup-  
 ply of the garrison, which was put on the  
 shortest possible allowance.

Towards the end of September the ammu-  
 nition of the savages was nearly exhausted,  
 and having heard that reinforcements were  
 on their way to Detroit, they thought that by  
 making peace they might lull the English  
 into security, retire unmolested to their