

CHAPTER IX.

Return from Venango—A Tramp on Foot—Murdering Town—The Indian Guide—Treachery—An Anxious Night—Perils on the Alleghany River—Queen Aliquippa—The old Watch-coat—Return across the Blue Ridge 106

CHAPTER X.

Reply of the Chevalier de St. Pierre—Trent's Mission to the Frontier—Washington recruits Troops—Dinwiddie and the House of Burgesses—Independent Conduct of the Virginians—Expedients to gain Recruits—Jacob Van Braam in Service—Toilful March to Wills' Creek—Contrecoeur at the Fork of the Ohio—Trent's refractory Troops 118

CHAPTER XI.

March to the Little Meadows—Rumors from the Ohio—Correspondence from the banks of the Youghiogeny—Attempt to descend that River—Alarming Reports—Scouting Parties—Perilous situation of the Camp—Gist and La Force—Message from the Half-king—French Tracks—The Jumonville Skirmish—Treatment of La Force—Position at the Great Meadows—Belligerent feelings of a young Soldier 123

CHAPTER XII.

Scarcity in the Camp—Death of Colonel Fry—Promotions—Mackay and his Independent Company—Major Muse—Indian Ceremonials—Public Prayers in Camp—Alarms—Independence of an Independent Company—Affairs at the Great Meadows—Desertion of the Indian Allies—Capitulation of Fort Necessity—Van Braam as an Interpreter—Indian Plunderers—Return to Williamsburg—Vote of Thanks of the House of Burgesses—Subsequent Fortunes of the Half-king—Comments on the Affair of Jumonville and the Conduct of Van Braam 135

CHAPTER XIII.

Founding of Fort Cumberland—Secret Letter of Stobo—The Indian Messenger—Project of Dinwiddie—His Perplexities—A Taint of Republicanism in the Colonial Assemblies—Dinwiddie's Military Measures—Washington quits the Service—Overtures of Governor Sharpe, of Maryland—Washington's dignified Reply—Questions of Rank between Royal and Provincial Troops—Treatment of the French Prisoners—Fate of La Force—Anecdotes of Stobo and Van Braam 150