



# The Volunteer Review

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"PICCIOLA."

It was a Sergeant old and gray,  
Well singed and bronzed from sieg and pillage,  
Went tramping in an army's wake,  
Along the turnpike of the village.

For days and nights the winding host  
Had through the little place been marching,  
And ever loud the rustics cheer'd,  
Till ev'ry throat was hoarse and parching.

The squire and farmer, maid and dame,  
All took the sight's electric stirring,  
And hats were waved and staves were sung,  
And kerchiefs white were countless whirling.

They only saw a gallant show  
Of heroes stalwart under banners,  
And in the fierce heroic glow,  
'Twas theirs to yield but wild hosannas,

The Sergeant heard the shrill hurrahs,  
Where he behind in step was keeping;  
But glancing down beside the road  
He saw a little maid sit weeping.

"And how is this?" he gruffly said,  
A moment pausing to regard her;—  
"Why weepst thou, my little chit?"  
And then she only cried the harder.

"And how is this, my little chit?"  
The sturdy trooper strait repeated,  
"When all the village cheers us on,  
That you, in tears, apart are seated?"

"We march two hundred thousand strong,  
And that's a sight my baby beauty,  
To quicken silence into song  
And glorify the soldier's duty."

"It's very, very grand, I know,"  
The little maid gave soft replying;  
"And Father, Mother, Brother, too,  
All say 'Hurrah' while I am crying;

"But think—O, Mr. Soldier, think,  
How many little sister's brothers  
Are going all away to fight,  
And may be *kill'd*, as well as others!"

"Why, bless thee, child," the Sergeant said,  
His brawny hand her curls caressing,  
"Th'is left for little ones like thee  
To find that war's not all a blessing."

And "Bless thee!" once again he cried:  
Then cleared his throat and look'd indignant  
And march'd away with wrinkled brow  
To stop the struggling tear benignant.

And still the ringing shouts went up  
From doorway, thatch, and fields of tillage;  
The pall behind the standard seen  
By one alone, of all the village.

The oak and cedar bend and writhe  
When roars the wind through gap and braken;  
But 'tis the tenderest reed of all  
That trembles first when Earth is shaken.

Some of the sturdy yeomen of Carleton County returned in the last steamer from Boston; having travelled through Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other States they came back better pleased with their native Province and its just laws, than all the inducements offered by the "greatest nation in all creation,"—and still they come—cured of the annexation fever.—*New Brunswick Paper.*

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,  
1764-84.

CHAPTER VII.

The Boston Port Bill was introduced to the House of Commons on the 14th of March, 1774, and received the Royal assent on the 31st of the same month. During the session an Act was passed depriving the Lower House of Assembly in Massachusetts of the privilege of electing the members of the Legislative Council, and vesting the power of nominating them in the Crown; also authorizing the King, or his representative, to appoint the judges, magistrates and sheriffs and empowering the latter to summon and retain juries; also prohibiting town meetings from being called by the Select men without the consent of the Governor. In order to protect those employed in the administration of the law and enforcing obedience to the authority of Parliament another Act was passed for the impartial administration of justice in Massachusetts empowering the Governor, with the advice of the Council, where any person acting in discharge of his duty as revenue, magistrate, or in support of those officers, should be charged with the crime of murder or any other capital offence committed while so acting to send such person so accused to Great Britain, or any other of the Colonies for trial in case an impartial trial could not be obtained within the Province. This was rendered necessary by the case of Captain Preston, and the fact that he owed his safety to his trial being delayed, and to the universal resistance to British law and its administrations manifested throughout the Colony, it was the duty of the British Government to protect their officers in the discharge of the duties assigned them, and if this had been done at an earlier period the turbulent mob of Boston would have been cowed into order and much subsequent suffering avoided.

During the session it was ascertained that the whole of the thirteen Colonies had been implicated in resistance to the landing of

tea but in a less outrageous degree. Throughout all these disturbances the recently acquired Colony or Province of Canada remained perfectly quiet. The gallant French Canadians no doubt regretted the reverse of fortune which separated them from their beloved La Belle France, but having bravely done their duty as good subjects they determined to preserve their honor by faithfully fulfilling their engagements under the new regime.

An Act was passed this session intituled "A Bill for re-constituting the Government of the Province of Quebec," as Canada was then called. This, known as the "Quebec Act," although the subject of severe animadversion and of outrageous complaint for the people of the thirteen Colonies was the most statesmanlike measure of the age and has resulted in securing to the Empire one-half of the North American continent. Happily for Canada and fortunately for Great Britain the former had found a Governor (George Carleton) who thoroughly understood the genius of the people whom the fortunes of war had placed under British rule, and, to his honor, resolutely and faithfully served the best interests of his country by his advocacy of their cause, and in the hour of that country's trial; the French Canadians, at his call, rolled back the tide of disaster from the walls of Quebec and eventually cleared the soil of the Province of invaders.

By the Quebec Act the Province of Canada was much enlarged—following the lines claimed by the French when owners of that Colony—it extended along the frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania to the Ohio and Mississippi and thence along the left bank of that river to the Hudson's Bay territory. The object of the Act was to secure to the Canadians the free exercise of their religion,—to the Roman Catholic hierarchy and clergy their rights according to the terms of the capitulation in 1760,—to restore the ancient laws in civil cases, and to establish a Legislative Council holding their commissions from and at the pleasure of the King,—such a Council, composed of the Canadian noblemen, being more acceptable to the mass of