

a fowling-piece, had become as valuable as a regular soldier. If he could not stand up like a professional in line of battle, and augment a volley, or cross bayonets, he could bushwhack like a frontiersman or an Indian. From behind a tree, a practised stripling might pick off the bravest soldier or the most capable officer, either, a much larger target than the partridge or squirrel he was accustomed to bring down with a single ball. These were the tactics which at Kings Mountain, 7th Oct., 1780, the fiercest southern conflict of the whole seven years, overwhelmed the most capable and intrepid partisan in the royal service. This decisive engagement is remarkable as the first in history in which breech-loading rifles, with elevating sights, were used as weapons for troops "of the line" and in line. The Americans could not stand the British bayonet, which scattered them like sheep, but the victors in the charge were eventually shot down like wild beasts in a battue. If there is an accursed trade in the whole immense circle of violence, that gives "a warrant to break into the bloody house of life," to which man readily adapts himself, it is that of a sharpshooter. Each successful shot is a deliberate murder.

If Gates had possessed any of the foresight and insight of a general, he could have compelled Burgoyne's surrender at discretion. He had done nothing to reduce him to the necessity, and he did nothing to profit by the necessity to which he had been reduced by Schuyler.

When Schuyler, by legal inheritance, became possessed of a vast fortune for the time, he shared it with his brothers and sisters. Out of his own purse he relieved the necessities of his country. In this he had very few imitators. Only one at this particular juncture—Langdon of New Hampshire. Too many of the patriots were rather intent on filling their pockets. As a recompense for his own patriotism, an Englishman was allowed to steal his birthright and New Englanders enabled him to do so.

Schuyler's letters, when he knew that he was to be superseded, read almost like the telegrams of Thomas when threatened with supercedure before Nashville.

Burgoyne surrendered!

France acknowledged American Independence, sent us troops, and what was far more important, money and supplies of all kinds. Without France, freedom would not have been achieved even in six more years, if at all. Little gratitude however, is due to France since the Colonies were simply the instruments of her