

revealing the actual truth and furnishing data and precedents for use in the future.

The year 1764 saw the subsidence of the last wave of the ten year's struggle between the French and English monarchies for the possession of the North American Continent which was believed to have finally fallen under the rule of the latter forever—her possessions extending from the Gulf of Florida eastward to Halifax embraced the whole Atlantic coast line of the continent—by the Peace of Paris it was extended to Labrador and comprised with the Province of Canada all West of the Alleghany range to the shores of the Pacific—to the North this Territory had no defined limits South, it was bounded by the Mississippi. East of the Alleghanies extending to the Atlantic the area covered by the thirteen Colonies consisting of Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, containing on the aggregate 340,000 square miles of territory—peopled by between two and three millions of British Colonists or in great part by their descendants. Each of those Colonies were allowed by their charter to elect a Legislature consisting of one or two houses and with the exception of Delaware a Lieutenant Governor or Governor, but such a thing as a *responsible administration* does not appear to have been thought of; hence the peculiar features of the present American system, where an irresponsible ministry without seats in either house of Congress, consequently without the confidence of the members, controul the destinies of thirty millions of souls. Virginia, the first settled in the beginning of the Seventeenth Century by wealthy aristocratic families from Great Britain who carried with them the prevailing notions of prerogative and High Church Government, was the last portion of the British Empire which yielded to Cromwell's usurpation, and the first to renounce obedience by proclaiming the worthless Charles the Second for one hundred and fifty years after its establishment did not contain a single place of worship for Roman Catholics or Protestant Dissenters. Its influence up to the disastrous war between the Northern and Southern States in 1862-65 was most extensive in the political affairs of the United States—it produced the greatest men as Soldiers, Statesmen, Jurists and Literati which the Union could boast—but now fallen under the power of a democracy she is like Frankenstein destroyed by the monster of her own creation.

Massachusetts and the New England Colonies were settled by religious and political refugees from England, cast out by the throes of that agitation in Church and State which culminated in the Great Rebellion, and except the stupid Scotch pedant who then filled the throne of the Great Tudor wished to get rid of them at any price, it is inconceivable that, blockhead as he was, he should have given a charter which virtually threw all the

Government into the hands of the ruling elders and they thus afforded the extraordinary example of erecting an ecclesiastical tyranny of their own, although to avoid a far milder one under Laud they literally became exiles and wanderers in the wilderness, and to make the parallel more complete having themselves suffered and escaped persecution they at once set up as persecutors on their own account, and having experienced the horrors of intolerance to show their appreciation thereof they improved on the practice and hanged for difference of opinion where Laud only fined. This charter allowed them not only to elect their House of Assembly, but also their Governor, Judges, and all Executive officers; swayed by a crafty and ambitious priesthood whose whole object was the reign of the "Saints on Earth," it is easy to understand that nothing in the political or moral teaching of the New Englanders tended to loyalty to Great Britain or her institutions. As old "Lentha" used to say, the "Presbyterial form of Government" which had totally failed in old England found a congenial home in New England and held in the *Pilgrim Fathers* the germs of that insubordination, that lawlessness, and that sacerdotal ascendancy which culminated in the successful Rebellion of 1775.

The Colonies between Virginia and Massachusetts had Charters partaking of the character of both; in Pennsylvania the Governors were nominated by the proprietors and frequently at issue with their House of Assembly, in fact the British Colonies were an ill organised and worse governed series of communities each having or thinking they had separate interest and rights; another element not favorable to the development of a high moral, political or religious tone in society, was the fact that those colonies had become a very cave of Adullam for all the desperate characters of the British Isles, and was the place to which the least blameable of their criminals had been expatriated.

From all this it is evident that amongst such people loyalty or nationality as a sentiment could not exist. Removed to what, as measured by time, would now be called a long distance from the Mother Country, estranged and exasperated by the operation of causes, just or unjust, the descendants of such men or themselves would doubtless seek the first opportunity of vengeance, especially as in striking the blow they would probably be advancing their own interests.

Commercially the condition of those Colonies were such as to make some change desirable. It was a period when "monopolies," national and individual, were looked on as the whole science of trade. England, by navigation laws, tried to fence around her industries and to increase their price to her customers, under the idea that by so doing she was nourishing them. Her revenue in 1775 was about £16,000,000 (sixteen million pounds) sterling per annum, which was wrung from the necessities of her people.

It was not then understood that the sim-

ple principle of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest markets constituted the whole science of commerce, and that any measure which restricted this in the slightest degree was injurious to people and country alike.

As a rule Great Britain tried to compel her Colonies to trade with herself alone. So lax indeed were the bonds in which she held them that neither Stamp Act or duty on tea would have provoked an outbreak if the trade with the Spanish Main had not been interfered with.

At this period Spain, with trifling exceptions, owned all South America—acting on the recognised principle all foreign nations were forbidden to trade with her Colonists, and the most fearful penalties were inflicted for a breach of this regulation whenever ill luck brought the bold smuggler into the hands of the Spanish Guarda-costas. The New England Fishermen knew the value of a cargo and armed to the teeth would take the risks fight the Spanish armed vessels when necessary, and managed to carry on quite a brisk trade with the West Indies and Spanish Main. The real cause which precipitated the rebellion of 1775 was the measures taken for the establishment of a more efficient Custom's police, in which the vessels of the Royal Navy were employed for the suppression of smuggling by an Act of Parliament passed in 1763. The consequence of its extension to North America was the suppression of the trade with the Spanish Main to the great loss of the British people and the all but ruin of the Colonists; not only did it affect the New England Colonies, but also those to the West and South, and was the direct cause of the subsequent rebellion to which the Stamp Act or Tea Duty was only a mere pretence; this discontent was engendered by the severity with which the Custom House regulations were enforced and the untaught zeal of the naval officers to whom that duty was entrusted carried ruin and destruction through the Provinces. If in addition to all this the ill feeling evoked in the minds of the Militia Officers who had served through the Campaigns of 1754-64, by the neglect with which they were treated and the contempt they must have felt for such men, as Lord London, Generals Webb and Abercrombie, sufficient reasons will be given to account for the show of force exhibited at the outset, the early determination arrived at to cast off all semblance of allegiance and the readiness with which life and estate was perilled in this quarrel.

It is not at all necessary to suppose that the feelings of patriotism, properly so called, were in any case evoked during the contest; that *refuge of scoundrelism*, according to Curran, could exercise little influence on men whose first act was to strike a matricidal blow at the existence of their native land, to band together with its enemies for whom scarcely twenty years previously that native land had scattered her treasures, burdened her people and shed their blood like water to defend them. No, the real governing motives