

Mother Country and the Colonies, which, after considerable difficulty, was carried. The intention of the resolution was that when any of the Colonies should propose according to their abilities to raise their due proportions towards the common defence under the authority of the Assembly of the Province and dispensable by Parliament; and when such colony should also engage to provide for the support of the civil government and the administration of Justice within the Province, it would be proper if such proposal should be approved of by His Majesty in Parliament to forbear in respect of such Colony to levy any duties or taxes or to impose any further duties or taxes except such as should be necessary for the regulation of trade.

This resolution was better to the rebels than a battle gained, it was in fact surrendering to clamour and force the right of Parliament to control the Empire, and conceding to men who had denied that right and outraged the prerogative of the Crown by assuming the powers of the Executive and insulted the nation at large by prohibitions and laying an embargo on its commerce; everything their wildest imagination could have claimed; the independence of the Colonies was a foregone conclusion from the night that fatal resolution passed the Commons.

As soon as copies arrived in America the Assemblies of the different Colonies were convened before whom they were laid but were accepted by none as a basis for conciliation. All this might have been expected and the nation was further insulted by all the Assemblies referring the resolution to Congress whom they held to be alone competent to deal with it; that illegal and self constituted assembly had been permitted to hold session after session without interference and Great Britain was to suffer at last for not dealing summarily with its members in the first instance.

It cannot be denied on any principle that within the British empire the parliament thereof is the supreme authority and that no assembly of a paltry minority as the people of the Colonies then were, never had any right to set up a rival Legislature combining within itself Legislative and Executive functions, such people by so doing place themselves without the pale of law and the delegates forming the convention or Congress are guilty of the crime of treason. Why history has dealt so gently with those people hitherto it is hard to imagine, but the fact seems to be they were successful and as a consequence were to achieve a reputation no matter by what means or how disreputable the triumph was, nevertheless, though they have been exalted to the rank of heroes, they were mere traitors deserving the pains and penalties they so richly merited but escaped, and their constituents were simply rebels. One of the claims put forth by themselves and echoed by their descendants was that the land was theirs, the

question may be naturally asked by what title? England claimed the country by right of discovery, every one of the colonies held from her, and by her aid the aboriginal inhabitants were expelled and the intruders sustained in their locations, therefore the land was not theirs, and this is not the first falsehood by many on which the American Revolution, as it is delicately called, has been sustained.

Towards the end of May the reinforcements so ardently desired began to arrive at Boston greatly to the relief of the blockaded troops there. On the 12th of June General Gage issued a proclamation offering, in His Majesty's name, a free pardon to all those who should at once lay down their arms, John Hancock and Samuel Adams only excepted, and threatening with punishment all such as should delay to avail themselves of the proffered mercy. The same proclamation declared martial law to be in force in the Province until peace and order should be so far restored that justice might again be administered in the civil courts, but this proclamation was treated like all others with contempt.

It was in fact a most injudicious proceeding with over 30,000 men in front of his lines himself and his sovereign's troops to all intents prisoners on a small peninsula, it is little wonder that the people of Massachusetts felt only contempt for the abilities of the soldier who allowed a rabble of country peasants to paralyse the exertions of his troops, and who could only conceive martial law to be necessary three months after his soldiers had been slaughtered and chased like sheep by the people of the Province where his own authority was denied and for twelve months the ordinary courts of law had been suspended by violence.

Throughout his whole career, from the first day he set foot in America, the actions of this man had been most injurious to British interests. As a soldier he knew nothing of his profession, as a politician he was stupid, perverse and impracticable, and to sum up all he was as great a fool as Loudon without his activity.

His imbecility and procrastination brought on a crisis eminently disastrous. With ample means at his command to give battle to the insurgents, he had suffered a blockade of two months, thus allowing his opponents to acquire a portion at least of discipline and that self confidence which is the result of having to deal with a vacillating and timid enemy.

Boston, the only town in America now held by Great Britain, is situated at the head of Massachusetts Bay formed by Cape Ann to the North and Cape Cod to the South, it is built on a peninsula south of the Charles river, north of the same river another and smaller peninsula furnished a site for the village of Charleston built on the South bank of the Mystic river. The two peninsulas approached each other within 500 yards.

The peninsula on which Charleston stands is joined to the main land by a neck or isthmus something broader than that which connects Boston with the continent: in the centre of Charleston peninsula rises an eminence of easy ascent from the isthmus but steep on every other side, the village standing at the foot of the hill between it and Boston, this elevation known as Bunker Hill is sufficiently high to overlook Boston and within easy cannon shot of it.

General Gage had been repeatedly advised to fortify and garrison this commanding post but with the stupid obstancy which characterized him neglected to do so. Determined to drive him from Boston, and probably made aware of the value of the position by the discussions and comments of the British officers, the insurgents crossed the isthmus of Charleston in force on the evening of the 16th of June, reached the top of the hill unobserved and immediately set to work to entrench themselves.

About midway between the isthmus and the extreme eastern point of the peninsula the insurgents intrenched themselves with their left resting on the Mystic river the line running south for 300 yards it then deflected at right angles nearly for 250 yards towards the east, then again south for 100 yards to a redoubt on the crest of the hill which formed the extreme right.

The houses of Charleston, at the foot of the hill, were occupied by the insurgents in force. The works immediately opposed in Boston being the Copp's hill redoubt on the extreme right of the British lines and their connections.

Strange as all these proceedings may be deemed the most singular part yet remains to be told. The peninsula was almost actually surrounded by ships of war and transports, some of them lying nearly as high up as the isthmus on the Charles River, not one appears to have heard the march of the detachments or the noise of the workmen till day break revealed to the watch on board the Lively the works on the hill, in many places shot proof, and that vessel startled Gage and his troops out of their slumbers by commencing a heavy fire upon the rebel lines at once. A battery of six guns from Copp's hill was soon afterwards opened, and at noon a detachment of troops under the command of Major General Howe and Brigadier General Pigot were landed on the peninsula of Charleston with orders to drive the insurgents from their works. Those troops landed on the extreme eastern point of the peninsula and were formed without opposition against the steepest part of the hill. But the Generals found the insurgents so strongly posted on the heights in such force with large columns of reinforcements marching to their relief that they thought it necessary to ask for reinforcements, those were accordingly sent and the detachments now numbered more than 2,000 men, were formed in two lines and