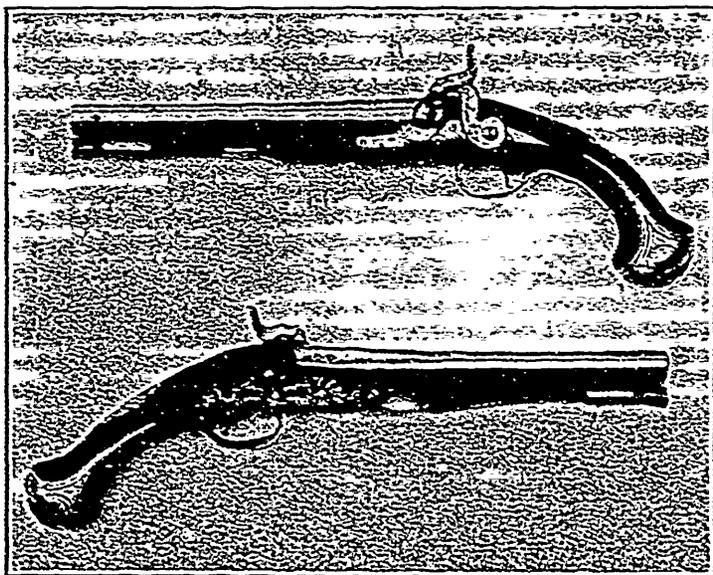


soldier to seize the sentry, who was posted at a small square hole cut through the logs, and which simple expedient served the double purpose of door and window, which he instantly executed, drawing the astonished sentry to this hole with one hand, and threatening to cut his throat with a large knife which he held in the other, if he made the smallest resistance, or outcry; then Cornet Merritt, and the whole party, crawled out, the one after the other, undiscovered by the guard, though it was in the daytime, until the whole had got out. He then drew them up, which the officer of the guard observing, got his men under arms as fast as he could, and threatened to fire on them if they attempted to go off: Merritt replied, that if he dared to fire a single shot at him, that he would cut the whole of his guard to pieces (having concerted with his men in such a case, to rush upon the enemy and tear their arms out of their hands) which so intimidated him, that although Merritt's party was armed only with the spoils of the sentry and with clubs, he yet permitted them to march off, unmolested, to a river at some distance, where Cornet Merritt knew, from conversation which he had with the sentries, that there was



Pair of pistols used by Major Thos. Merritt in Wars 1776-88 and 1812-14. Converted from flintlocks in 1887 by Col. Elias Adams, who married a daughter of Major Merritt. Now in the Canadian Military Institute among the "Merritt Loan Collection."

a large rice-boat, in which he embarked and brought his party through a country of above fifty miles safe into George Town.* To you the undaunted spirit and bravery of this young man is not unknown; they obtained for him in his distress your friendship and protection." "Col. Balfour was pleased to approve his conduct, and in a letter to me, dated Charles Town, 2nd April, 1781, expresses it then:— 'I rejoice most sin-
(Now a suburb of Washington, D.C.)