

River, and consisted at the time of its occupation by Lord Cornwallis' army of about a dozen houses—the position was a good one—a marshy creek covered the right, the river the left and rear, while in front the ground was clear and level for a mile, at that distance stood a belt of wooded land forming a gorge of narrow width between a creek (called Severn river) on the right and the river; beyond the gorge the country was open and cultivated. The village was covered in front by a chain of three redoubts connected by lines and protected by abatis.

Yorktown occupies a more commanding position on the river, its front from nearly left to right was covered by a swamp through which a rivulet ran—the end of this swamp on the right was covered by several frigates anchored in the river—a large redoubt close to the river road from Williamsburgh on the south or further side from Yorktown of the swamp covered the extensive defences on the right; at the head of the swamp two redoubts, one on each side of the main road from Williamsburgh, covered the centre which was further protected by a narrow strip of woodland the trees of which were felled with the branches outwards; the left of the centre was covered by a field work mounted with artillery which also commanded the Hampton Road—from this point a creek and ravine which increased in depth till it reached York River below the town covered the left of the works, but the defensive redoubts were placed on the left or inner bank of the ravine, thus making this part the weakest of the *cintre* which occupied a segment of a circle with both ends resting on the river whose chord would be about 7000 feet, and versed since less than half that distance, embracing an area of less than 900 acres. The inner line covering Yorktown had a chord of about 3500 feet, and versed since of about 1200 feet, was fortified on the right by redoubts and batteries with a line of stockade in the rear which supported a high parapet of earth—the redoubts were furnished with fraizing—on the inner side of the marshy ravine a large redoubt with a good ditch fraizing and abatis. The edge of the swamp extended along the centre and was defended by a line of stockade and by batteries commanding all the avenues through it—on the left of the centre was a low work with a ditch, a row of fraizing and an abatis, some embrasures for cannon were completed in this work. The left was fortified by redoubts, communications of earth and batteries which were all fraized but without stockade or abatis—two redoubts were advanced to the inner edge of the ravine on the left which were small and not so well furnished as those in front of the right—by the injudicious contraction of the works at this point the commanding positions were left open to the besiegers and it was precisely here the approaches were made—the space thus inclosed by the inner line was narrow, not large enough for retrenchments and exposed by the uncovering

of the left to be unfladed. Such was the position in which Lord Cornwallis with over 6000 effective veterans shut himself up to await the issue of events at New York.

General Washington had assembled the army which Clinton's imbecility allowed the Congress to keep together at Peek's Kill, towards the end of the month of June, and marching from thence to White Plains was joined on the 6th of July by the French troops from Rhode Island under command of the Count de Rochambeau; on the evening of the 21st the whole force marched towards King's Bridge, and next morning were drawn up in order of battle before the British lines—whilst French and American officers reconnoitered the position of the works—the same scene was repeated on the morning of the 25th, and in the afternoon both armies marched back to their former encampment.

This display of force had the desired effect of confining Clinton within his lines and increasing his anxiety for the safety of New York—although it was well known to him that the combined army could do nothing without a covering fleet, and that the way to prevent any movement on their part was to forward advices of the fact to Sir George Rodney requesting him to look well after the Comte de Grasse in the West Indies, while a movement of Cornwallis's troops on Philadelphia would have compelled Washington to fight at a disadvantage or abandon that town to its fate—either movements being decisive of the contest—but Sir Henry appears to have been a puzzle-headed man incapable of conceiving or executing any plan.

Towards the middle of August despatches arrived from the Comte de Grasse announcing his intention to enter the Chesapeake about the end of the month, and intimating that an attack on the force under Lord Cornwallis would be the most feasible project and most likely to lead to a favorable issue—he also requested immediate co-operation as he could not remain long on the American coast. Letters were immediately despatched by the American and French Generals approving of this plan, while a series of manoeuvres were undertaken to deceive Sir Henry Clinton, and in this though clumsily enough executed they were completely successful, when suddenly breaking up their camp they marched across New Jersey to Philadelphia where they arrived on the 30th August.

It had been no secret in New York that a movement of this description was intended, Washington's despatches containing an outline of the whole scheme had been intercepted and carried to Clinton, and he had been also advised thereof by the Ministry in England. Sir George Rodney who commanded the fleet in the West Indies also warned him that the Comte de Grasse was to be expected on the American coast and that his probable destination was the Chesapeake, and the British Admiral commanding on the North American station was advised of the movement and informed that a reinforcement

would be sent sufficiently powerful to enable him to frustrate all the French Admiral's intentions. But neither Sir Henry Clinton, Admiral Greaves, nor Sir George Rodney appears to have appreciated the importance of the crisis which was approaching, or understood the momentous issues with which they had to deal.

Clinton appears to have acted like an idiot, Admiral Greaves as a senile fool, and Rodney as a slothful careless man of pleasure to whom the idea of a movement by which the whole French fleet would abandon the West Indies and seek the American shores at the expense of so much toil and trouble, appeared perfectly incomprehensible, and therefore he contented himself with detaching Sir Samuel Hood with *fourteen* sail of the line to reinforce Admiral Greaves at New York—this squadron made the land to the southward of the capes of Virginia on the 25th August, and not meeting with the lookout frigates proceeded to Sandy Hook where they arrived on the 28th. At New York he found Admiral Greaves with seven sail of the line, of which only five were ready for sea, two being under repairs. Sir Samuel Hood brought intelligence of the sailing of the French fleet from the West Indies, it became necessary at once to sail for the Chesapeake, especially as intelligence had arrived that the French squadron under M. de Barras, at Rhode Island, had sailed on the 25th August. As the distance between Newport and New York is only 160 miles, it argues a lack of ordinary vigilance that information of the movements of the enemy's fleet were not known at the latter place till five days after it sailed—the English fleet sailed from Sandy Hook on the 31st August.

LONDON, 22nd.—The authorities are taking measures for the establishment of a mail and passage route to Europe *via* San Francisco.

The commercial journals comment upon the excessive imports of American wheat and flour during the past year. Statistics show the receipts of wheat from the United States to be 3,500,000 quarters more than in any previous year.

MEXICO, 11th.—The State of San Luis Potosi is entirely free of revolution. The insurgents in that State rebelled against their leaders, who were compelled to fly for their lives. The Prefect of Pocolalpa has been lynched by the people.

SAN FRANCISCO, 18th.—Rudolpho and Deery played a billiard match last night, 1,500 points for \$3,000. Rudolpho won, making 1,500 while Deery was making 970. Rudolpho's greatest run was 312; Deery's greatest run 174.

NEW YORK, 22nd.—John Savage has issued an address of the Council of the Fenian Brotherhood, reporting the organisation financially strong, and declaring opposition to attacking the British in Canada, claiming that the organisation is merely intended to spread the benefits of a just political system; and stating that the tenure bill in Parliament is not a settlement of the Irish land question, but the best that can be hoped for, and if passed it will not embarrass the brotherhood in the least, and hoping for the time when the leaders of the home organisation are prepared to unfurl their banner on Irish soil.