



# The Volunteer Review

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### "JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE MOTHER."

AUTHORIZED VERSION.

Just before the Battle, Mother,  
Johnny felt unwell;  
What was ailing, Johnny, Mother,  
Johnny couldn't tell.  
Johnny ran away, Mother,  
Braving captain's ire,  
Johnny can't abide, Mother,  
Hearing cannons fire.

Johnny came to me, Mother,  
Wasn't Johnny right?  
Tea with me was nicer, Mother,  
Than a horrid fight.  
Let me marry Johnny, Mother,  
And we'll bless the day,  
When just before the battle, Mother,  
Johnny ran away.—PUNCH.

### THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,

1764-84.

CHAPTER IV.

Considerable reluctance was manifested in all the Colonies to perform this simple act of Justice, but as the Lords of the Imperial Treasury were masters of the situation the matters had to be finally arranged. An amendment to the Mutiny Act, having for its object to provide, in addition to ordinary rations, salt, vinegar, beer and cider for the troops serving in the Colonies, and when it is known that the pay of the soldiers was 6d sterling per day, such an addition will not be deemed very extravagant, was sullenly resisted by the Assembly of New York, as an imposition not inferior in principle to the Stamp Act.

The Rockingham administration was short lived; it was succeeded in July, 1767, by that of the Duke of Grafton, which included Mr. Pitt, now Earl of Chatham, and as he was amongst the foremost in warning the Grenville administration of the danger incurred by their mode of dealing with Colonial officers, so it was reasonable to think they would receive liberal and intelligent consideration at his hands. In the debates in Parliament it had been maintained by Mr. Pitt, and very justly, that a distinction should be drawn between what was external and internal taxation, that the former included all money raised by duties on import-

ed and exported goods, and was therefore a legal and constitutional subject for Parliamentary legislation, but the latter was solely a direct tax and constituted the objectionable feature of the Stamp Act. In this view the Virginia Legislature and most of those of the other Colonies concurred at the time. Acting on this principle the new administration passed an Act of Parliament for imposing certain duties for glass, paper, pasteboard, painters' colours and tea, payable upon the importation of these articles into the Colonies,—which duties, when collected, were intended for making provision for the administration of Justice, and the support of civil government in each of the Colonies where collected, the residue, if any, to be paid into the English Exchequer to provide a fund for the purposes of Colonial defence. It also contained a clause discontinuing the drawback payable on exportations of Chinaware to the Colonies, and more stringent provisions against smuggling. At the same time an Act was passed for putting all customs and duties payable in the Colonies levied by Parliament under the management of commissioners, who were to be resident in the Colonies.

The same session of Parliament by a Legislative Act suspended the Assembly of New York from the exercise of all legislative functions until they should comply with the conditions of the Mutiny Act.

It is evident that even the great statesman, the Earl of Chatham, totally misapprehended the real grievances of the Colonists and themselves were ignorant of what it really was. It was not the amount of taxes, or even the principle involved, but it was the customs' regulations which were destroying the commerce of the country and carrying desolation and ruin into all its mercantile establishments, and through them interfering with the industry of the people.

There can be no doubt in the mind of any man who has studied this subject by the light of constitutional law and usage that the British Parliament had the right to levy import and export duties at home on Colonial produce, and in the Colonies on foreign or home produce. At that period and al-

ways the Colonies have always been considered as integral parts of the Empire, and therefore have clearly no right to set up an independent authority against the interests of the other members of that body politic. The question of jurisdiction was not the one which should have been argued by the Colonists if seeking redress, but that of expediency, as the trade regulations inflicted against the commerce of Great Britain also. But to exasperated men reasoning on what would then be thought an abstract politico-economical problem would be a useless waste of time. The evil was close at hand, and the remedy remote. Therefore the simplest solution of the difficulty was to deny the supremacy of the British Parliament, and as they had already succeeded in bullying that body into a repeal of one obnoxious bill, a repetition of the same manoeuvres might compel them to abandon all thoughts of interfering in the fiscal or commercial relations of the Colonies. These views were powerfully enforced by the press and by pamphleteers all over the Provinces, and the new bill was resisted with tenfold more virulence and system than the Stamp Act. As Virginia was first in accepting Mr. Pitt's definition, when in opposition, of external and internal duties so was she first in disavowing the Earl of Chatham's bill for imposing duties when he was in power. For the cause before explained the discontent had taken more firm hold in the minds of the people in Massachusetts than in any of the other Colonies, and the peculiar religious belief prevailing amongst the people led them to prefer a Republican form of government, it is not to be wondered at if that Colony bore a bad pre-eminence in all the violence which followed, and from this period till the opening out of the rebellion the deeds of the people of this Province stand more prominently forward.

For the causes already detailed the people of the New England Provinces and especially of Massachusetts were rarely on good terms with their Governors. Restive under control and always nervously sensitive to the appearance of encroachments of their chartered rights, this was clearly a people who