



# The Volunteer Review

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### DEATH IN THE LODGE ROOM.

BY E. W. H. ELLIS, M. D., 330.

Surgeon Morton, of Boston, Mass., relates this incident as occurring at Fredericksburg, Virginia. "I was professionally engaged in the Baptist Church this morning; it is almost packed with wounded. The tank intended for immersion is used as a bathing tub, and the operations are performed in the pastor's small study back of the pulpit. The Freemason's Hall is also filled with the wounded, and there remains much of the paraphernalia of the lodge in which Washington received his degrees. I found one poor fellow who was a member of the Fraternity, and at his request had his bed removed to the platform once occupied by the Master's chair, where he lay and gazed upward at the mystic letter "G," as if secure under its protection.

And this touching incident so suggestive of the faith and hope of the Mason, I have ventured thus to paraphrase:

The Patriarchal Lodge was filled  
With weary, wounded men;  
And noisy tongues were sudden still'd,  
For life was ebbing then;  
And eyes that once flashed manly fire  
With flim of death were glazed;  
And others with a maniac glare—  
How wildly they gazed!

Then one brave soldier—thus they tell—  
Upstart from his bed,  
As if awakened from a spell—  
"And do I dream?" he said,  
"This altar,—how it speaks of home,  
The gavel and square—  
And yon mysterious letter hung  
Suspended in the air!"

The soldier closed his eyes again,  
With sparkling tears suffused,  
And thought of brethren far away,  
And to himself he mused:  
"Here, where our Washington once trod  
Beneath the Omniscent Eye,  
Where all things upward point to God,  
How blest it were to die?"

"Ho! comrades," said the dying man,  
"Come, lend a helping hand,  
My sands of life are almost run,  
I seek the better land;  
Place me beneath the vaulting arch,  
Whose dim outline I see,  
And let me breathe my spirit out  
Beneath the letter G."

They laid him down—no word he spake—  
No murmur on his breath,  
But calmly waited he the touch  
Of the grim monster, Death;  
That mystical initial, G,  
His dark eye wandered o'er,  
And when the evening sun went down,  
The soldier was no more.

They followed him an humble grave,  
Under a spreading tree,  
And carved him no memorial, save  
The mystic letter "G."  
And a finger pointing steadily  
Up to the Throne of Love,  
For they deemed his spirit joyfully  
Soared to the Lodge above.

### THE REVOLT

OF THE

## British American Colonies, 1764-84.

CHAPTER XI.

The action of 19th April was magnified into a victory by the rebels and their abettors, although the return of the British to Boston had been always intended, it at once took the character of a retreat, and while it greatly aided the cause of the rebellious it depressed and disheartened the loyal and those anxious to continue British connection, while it decided the wavering—always a large number in those cases—to take part with the insurgeants. One of the immediate consequences was that an army of 20,000 insurgeants were assembled under the command of Colonels Ward, Pribble, Heath, Prescott and Thomas, officers who had served in the Provincial regiments during the late war, and who now acted as General's invested Boston, forming a line of encampment from the Mystic River, on the left, to Roxburgh, on the right, a distance of nearly thirty miles, the headquarters being at Cambridge, where soon afterwards a strong reinforcement of troops from Connecticut, under Col. Putnam, an old Provincial officer of approved experience who had served in the two last wars joined them. However, Boston had been so well covered with works, especially on the land side that the insurgeants dared not attack them.

The Provincial Congress now removed to Watertown about ten miles from Boston, and at once assumed the powers for regulating the army, fixing the pay of officers and soldiers, establishing rules and orders of government, and passing a vote for issuing a large sum in paper currency to defray expenses, for the redemption of which the faith of the Provinces, or, as they would style it, the commonwealth, was pledged. On the 5th of May they passed a resolution declaring General Gage had utterly disqualified himself from acting in the Province as Governor or in any capacity, that no obedience was

due to him, but, on the contrary, he was to be considered as a public enemy.

At home the same vacillating policy which marked the earlier stages of this dispute paralyzed the energies of the Empire. The opposition, unprincipled and violent, gave open encouragement by their language to the insurgeants. Unhappily the great talent of the House of Commons was all arrayed on that side, and the ministry, which embraced some able men in its ranks, had to contend with the violence of the opposition and the distrust of the people, for which, as usual, no good cause could be assigned. The latter were led away by the leaders of opposition.

With a due regard to the honor of the Empire, the ministry determined to compel submission to parliamentary control, and there can be no doubt but in this measure they would be successful if the opposition could forget their ambition, or make it subservient to their patriotism; but although they numbered some of the most able political debaters the parliament of Great Britain has ever seen, it is very doubtful whether one amongst them could be called a statesman, in the modern acceptation of the term.

The plan now proposed was to put the refractory Colonies in a state of blockade, and as they had formed associations against trading with the Mother Country, it was determined that they should not trade with any other, as also prohibiting them from fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland. Bills embodying these measures were passed through the House, including all the Colonies except New York, North Carolina, and Georgia. A large addition to the sea and land forces was also voted, and reinforcements were ordered to Boston under the command of Generals Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne.

While these vigorous measures were taken to avenge the insults offered to the nation and enforce the respect due to parliament through mistaken ideas of leniency, and with a weakness which merits severe condemnation, the ministry moved a resolution in the House of Commons intended to serve as a basis of a future agreement between the

The Queen has appointed the Duke of Edinburgh, K. G., K. T., Captain in the Fleet, to be an Ordinary Member of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.