

division of his force in order to surround the British that they were beaten by the latter in detail with a loss of 500 men in killed, wounded and prisoners, with a like loss of 258 on their side.

The victory at Hobkirk's Hill, like its predecessor at Guildford, was productive of no good results; it barely prolonged the final agony. The British posts were invested, and on the 23rd of April Fort Watson, on the Santee, was surrendered to Marion and Lee, who were enabled to take such a position as compelled Col. Watson, marching with a detachment to reinforce Lord Rawdon, to abandon his line of march and make so long a detour as to delay the junction till the 7th of May.

On the night of the 8th of May Lord Rawdon marched from Camden resolved to strike a blow on Gen. Greene, who had retreated to Rugeley's Mills, twelve miles from Camden, but the astute Quaker having heard of Col. Watson's junction, decamped at once and put Twenty-five Mile Creek between himself and the British. After the latter had driven in his pickets and reconnoitred his position they found he could not be dislodged without great loss, and therefore retired to Camden, which latter town was evacuated on the 10th of May, the British army crossing at Nelson's ferry and proceeding to Monk's Corners for the protection of Charlestown, — as its works being in an unfinished state the garrison was insufficient for its defence.

Gen. Greene having strategically effected the withdrawal of the British covering force, proceeded at once to invest the detached posts which had been scattered through the country, too weak for purposes of intimidation and too far apart for support, those fell an easy prey in most instances. Fort Motte, on the Congaree, was taken by Lee and Marion on the 11th of May; about the same time Sumter captured Orangeburg, and on the 15th Lee received the surrender of Fort Granby. Thus clearing the north and north-east parts of the Province of the invaders, whose losses could not be measured by their defeats, but by the number of brave and experienced soldiers and material which fell into the hands of the Americans.

The retreat of the British force from Camden enabled Gen. Greene to act against the western frontiers and Augusta in Georgia, and Ninety-six in South Carolina were at once invested, the latter by the main army while Gen. Pickens with the militia of South Carolina, and Lee's legion appeared before Augusta, having first reduced Fort Golphin, on the banks of the Savannah. After a gallant defence Fort Augusta surrendered on the 5th of June.

Ninety-six, so named from its being that number of miles from the town of Keocree in the Cherokee County, was originally, like all frontier villages, surrounded by a stockade as a protection from the Indians. When it came into the possession of the British troops in 1780 some other works were added,

the principal of which was a star redoubt on the right of the village. It consisted of sixteen salient and re-entering angles, with a dry ditch, fraise and abbatis; but the whole of the works were in an unfinished state. Lord Rawdon was well aware of the danger with which this post was threatened and endeavored to apprise Lieut.-Colonel Cruger, who commanded there, of it, directing him to evacuate the post and retire to Augusta, and after joining his force to that garrison to act as circumstances would dictate. Advices of a similar description were sent from Charlestown, but so universal and general was the disaffection that the inhabitants guarded all the roads and intercepted the messengers so that not one reached Ninety-six. Lieut.-Colonel Cruger was therefore ignorant of the battle of Hobkirk's Mill, and the evacuation of Camden, but his scouts made prisoner of an American officer, from whom he obtained such intelligence as determined him to put his post in a position of defence. He therefore set the whole garrison to work and completed a series of entrenchments, covered with abbatis, completely surrounding the position. Block houses were erected in the village, and as the star redoubt covered it on the right, the county prison was fortified to cover a valley through which a stream of water ran, on one side, while a stockade covered it on the other. For the defence of all those works there were but three pieces of artillery, and for these a scanty supply of ammunition. The garrison consisted of 350 men and 200 loyal Militia. Lieut.-Colonel Cruger, anticipating that he would be obliged to capitulate and that treaty would not be respected by their countrymen, who would be likely to murder them when defenceless, gave them permission to retire, which they could easily have done, either to Charlestown or Georgia, as they all had horses, but to their honor they at once declared they would take all the chances, and turning their horses loose in the woods manfully prepared to vindicate their claim to loyalty as British subjects.

Such was the state of the defences and garrison when the American army sat down before it on the 21st of May, as if to intimidate the garrison the American General Greene threw up two works during the night within seventy paces of the abbatis, — if acting against raw militia this would probably have been a successful movement, but the garrison taught him a lesson which he did not forget. A platform for three pieces of artillery was erected in the star redoubt and under cover of their fire a party of only thirty men sallied from the fort, carried the American works and bayoneted every one of the defenders. They were followed by another party who demolished the works and carried off all the intrenching tools and the negroes; and all this was done in spite of the support of the American army without any other loss than an officer mortally wounded. Taught by this to prepare for a

regular siege the Americans again broke ground on the 25th of May, at a distance of 400 yards, and worked so incessantly that the second parallel was completed on the 3rd of June. The Adjutant-General of the American army now summoned the garrison by delivering a paper signed by himself setting forth in pompous terms the successes achieved, and exhorting the garrison to surrender, as everything was to be hoped from Gen. Greene's generosity and to be feared from his resentment, and the commandant of the garrison was assured he would be held personally responsible for the consequences of further resistance. To all this Lieut.-Colonel Cruger directed a message to be given to the Adjutant-General for Gen. Greene to the effect that promises and threats produced a like effect as he was totally indifferent to both, and would defend the post to the last extremity.

The operations of the siege were now directed with the greatest energy, but every attempt was met by a counter movement on the part of the garrison and by a determined and vigorous resistance which baffled the besiegers. Their efforts were quickened by an exhibition which the vanity or malignity, or both, of the American Col. Lee furnished them with. On the 7th of June he marched the captured garrison of Augusta past Ninety-six in full view of the garrison, with all the parade of martial music preceded by a British standard reversed. The American army, strengthened by this force, began to make preparations on the left of the village, which kept open the communications with the water. The operations being entrusted to Colonel Lee, and a most acrimonious feeling existing against him on the part of the garrison; they made a sortie on the 9th of June, penetrated to the enemy's batteries, bayoneted the defenders, and dismounted the guns, but owing to the want of hammers and spikes could not disable them. They also fell in with the covering party of Americans, charged them with the bayonet, killed a number of them, and brought off their commanding officer prisoner. This and other losses so enraged Lee that on the 12th of June at mid day he directed a sergeant and six men to advance with lighted combustibles and set fire to the abbatis. The men bravely attempted to carry out their orders, but they were all killed by the fire from the stockade, and he was obliged to solicit a truce to bury his dead.

The heavy artillery captured at Augusta was now sent for and by the 17th June the stockade fort was no longer tenable and it was evacuated in the night without loss; although the garrison was now cut off from water they did not despair; early on the 18th June a loyalist rode through the American picquets and into the village under fire of the enemy with a message from Lord Rawdon that he had passed Ogdensburg and was in full march to their relief. As this movement was known to General Greene