

The Choice of the In Memoriam Stanza.

You ask me why, tho' ne'er till then
The poets in this verse had wrought
The fabric of eternal thought
To thrill the varying lives of men

He chose it for his mournful rime,
He wove it into solemn song,
Through whose sad closes swept along
The passion of a soul sublime.

'Twas not the idle search of art
For artifice; 'twere surely vain
To speak the inmost voice of pain
Save straightly from the riven heart.

'Twas not the striving for effect,
For something that should tingle bright
One moment at the bars of light,
Then pass and all its splendour wreck'd.

Such gilded baubles as they string
Who now the Muse of England court;
She leads them in a scornful sport,
And mocketh at the idle thing

It was the verse of easy flow,
Nor tedious with an art too deep,
Nor leaving yet the solemn sweep
Of dirge and voicings full of woe.

Among the rimes of English song
He felt the passion-power, and free,
Of ballad rhythm yet to be
Too full of light nor lasting strong.

But keeping still the ancient strength,
He gave a depth of solemn tone
By central music, inly thrown,
And yet in lines of rapid length.

He 'pip'd but as the linnets sing,'
'Twas thus the mournful song did flow:
Yet not such carol, for below
Thou hear'st the solemn dirges cling

A sound as of the breaking wave,
That lonely on the autumnal shore,
Sobs its wild sorrow evermore;
So he above an English grave.

The various passion finds relief
In varied measures, yet thro' all
We hear the deeper notes that fall
In changeless monody of grief.

You ask me why he chose it thus,
When suffering such a sorrow strong;
Tell me why sings the lark its song,
And why the linnet? So for us

'Twere worse than idle to inquire,
And haply miss the truths that lie
Incorporate in the mourner's cry,
Nor feel his passion's sacred fire

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Beginning of the Loyalists of 1776-83.

ALL the people of all the American colonies were not united in resisting Great Britain, when it came to actual combat in 1776. There were many difficulties in the way of the success of the colonists who had declared themselves free and independent. Among them were the following:—

1. Each colony provided for the enlistment of its own militia. In many instances militia of different colonies refused to leave the territory of their native states, because they had been recruited merely to defend that territory. Even in the Continental army, which was organized by Congress, all officers below the rank of Colonel were appointed by the Legislatures of the various colonies from which the regiments were drawn into the general service.

2. In the American Archives, Vol. V., p. 472, there is a letter dated March, 1776, from John Adams to Gates, in which the writer declares that "Our misfortunes arise from a single source—the reluctance of the Southern colonies to a republican form of government." In previous colonial days,

the royalists of Virginia and the Carolinas, including Georgia, had regarded with distrust the democratic organization of some of the other colonies so different in land-tenure and popular sentiment to their own. They hesitated naturally, therefore, to pledge themselves to a course which might injure their own prosperity and overthrow their social establishment.

3. As the war grew, the composition of the Continental Congress began to evince a less fine quality than at first. Sometimes only 21 members were present, and they were mostly from the North, which was democratic. At the same time the best officers of the army were Southern, like Washington, Sumter, Marion, Lee, Elbert, Morgan, Howard, Pickens and Moultrie. The finest regiments were from the South. These were Lee's Virginia Light Horse Cavalry, Morgan's Kentucky Riflemen, Marion's Legionary Cavalry of South Carolina, and Howard's Maryland Infantry. There therefore began a rivalry between the Continental Congress and the council of officers of the Continental Army. It was similar to the rivalry which formerly existed in England between Parliament and Cromwell and his officers.

The most loyal element of the British colonists in America was among the military class of all sections summoned to defend the charters, which the action of the London Parliament threatened to destroy.

One of the strongest proofs of this is in the three articles of that organization known as the "Minute Men." Each member of this organization signed these articles, which pledged the signers—

(1) "To defend to the utmost of our power, His Majesty, King George the Third, his person, crown and dignity;

(2) "At the same time, to the utmost of our power and abilities, to defend all and every of our charter rights, liberties and privileges, and to hold ourselves in readiness at a moment's warning, with arms and ammunition thus to do;

(3) "And at all times and in all places to obey our officers chosen by us and our superior officers in ordering and disciplining us, when and where said officers shall think proper."

And the "Minute Men" disbanded in 1778, when Great Britain restored the colonial charter privileges which they had taken arms to defend.

And so, on account of this, was the political connection existing between Great Britain and the American colonies weakened! But the memory of Britain's glory yet remains to her best children wherever they may be. They can never forget the land of their fathers' renown. They cultivate the knowledge of that revered distant strand, and by that means enkindle the best affections of the heart, without which a race is worthless in history.

It is not the future that makes the man or the state; it is the past. And those nations whose rulers do what they can to cultivate a knowledge among the people of the heroes of their history, and broaden out the pages of their record by the inspiration of such ideals, arise to the greatest designs and to an immortal fame. It is in the sentiment that such knowledge gives to a people that a vital fortress exists, which neither the arts nor the arms of the enemy can conquer, and his hosts, though compassing about, can neither terrify nor subdue!

4. Another hindrance to the Independence party in the colonies was the vast number of people who preferred, after all these happenings, to live under the British authority. They were, in truth, very numerous. On May 7, 1781, a letter from Lord George Germaine to Sir Henry Clinton gives the information that "The American levies in the King's service are more than all the enlisted troops in the service of Congress." A computation the year before this, in 1780, revealed that there were 8,954 Provincials then in the British army. Many of these American loyalists had sided with the colonial party until after 1778. Then the news reached America that on February 17, 1778, three bills had been passed by the British Parliament entirely removing all grounds of complaint made by the colonists in preceding years, and providing for the appointment of commissioners to settle all differences between the colonies and the British Parliament. These commissioners had authority to suspend any Act of Parliament, relating to America, which had been passed since the 10th of February, 1763. The news of this so affected many who had previously acted with the revolted colonists, that they turned once again to the