

Preface

the troops in Savannah. The two Captain Johnstons were within the lines, at each extremity. They had two younger brothers, Alexander and John—the latter aged nearly fifteen and the former nearly sixteen—who wished much to join their brothers, but Mrs. Johnston would not hear of it, and told her elder sons, who also wished it, not to say a word more; she had risked two sons already and she would not have the others leave her on any account. All her family but myself had gone for safety from the balls and shells thrown into the town, to an island opposite the town, and in the barn in which our family were, there were fifty-eight women and children. All had dear friends in the lines. I remained with Mrs. Johnston and her two lads, as I was engaged to her oldest son and wished to stay to see him as often as I could. One morning Captain William M. Johnston came up in haste to tell his mother to set out immediately to the wharf and get a friend there to get us a boat, to cross without loss of time to the island, as the enemy were going to open a heavy cannonade upon the town. We set off without delay, and just as we turned the first corner of the street their