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The Volunteer Review,
AND
MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1873.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words "Printer's copy" written; and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

THE Earl of CORNWALLIS proceeded to fortify York town and Gloucester on the south and north banks of the York River in compliance with the instructions contained in a letter from Sir H. CLINTON, in order to establish a port that would provide shelter for ships of war in Chesapeake Bay. The relative position of the belligerents were as follows:—Rhode Island was headquarters of the Marquis DE ROCHEAMBEAU, the French Commander-in-Chief; WASHINGTON with such troops as Congress could get together occupied his old position at White Plains above the island on which New York is built on the east bank of the Hudson, the Marquis DE LE FAYETTE with some 3,000 badly found militia remained in the neighborhood of Williamsburgh between York and James rivers, for the purpose of watching Lord CORNWALLIS, while Sir H. CLINTON was engaged in watching at New York the most perilous game of tactics of which history makes any record.

The French fleet was engaged in those curious strategical manoeuvres in the West

Indies which resembles nothing on earth but those puzzles with a string and stick in which children and simpletons delight; a squadron lay at Newport under M. DE BARRAS and another of seven sail of the line under Admiral GREAVES at New York, while the main British fleet under the command of the ablest seaman and tactician of his day, but one of the slowest apathetic and most listless of men; Sir G. RODNEY was engaged in unravelling those curious strategic puzzles which Count DE GRASSE busied himself in weaving under the delusion that by taking possession of some wretched sugar or tobacco island, whose whole area would not make an ordinary county in the United States or Canada, he was striking at the heart of the British Empire. It was a fitting sequel to a war brought about by smuggling that it should be closed in strict conformity with the huxtering details of the retail trade.

The position of the belligerents in 1781 will show that CLINTON could have forced the United States troops and French to battle, in which case their defeat and destruction was inevitable, and as a consequence the closing of the contest; France could not have put another man in the field and the destruction of her fleet on the 12th April, 1782, shewed she could not put another ship while the affairs of the rebel Congress were beyond hope of recovery.

To the soldier and patriot it is a saddening reflection that the stupid imbecility of one man reversed all this—that disgrace was brought on the British Arms and an impetus given to Revolutionary changes inimical alike to morality and good Government, which a lapse of ninety two years has not been able to restrain. WASHINGTON and ROCHEAMBEAU having found that it would be impossible to rouse the British General from his lethargy, and the Comte de GRASSE having pointed out that the British Admiral was equally as hard to move, suggested an attack on Earl CORNWALLIS's force as being most feasible, provided co-operation by the united forces could be secured.

In accordance with this plan the United States and French Army having manoeuvred for some time before New York, suddenly broke up from their lines and marched across the Jerseys to Philadelphia, where they arrived on 30th August. This movement was no secret in New York, yet General CLINTON never attempted to prevent it in any way. It still required a march of nearly 250 miles to reach Yorktown, before which their advance arrived on the 28th September.

The Comte de GRASSE had arrived in the Chesapeake on the 30th August, and at once proceeded to blockade York River. Admiral GREAVES, at New York, had timely information of this movement, and also a reinforcement of fourteen sail of the line under Sir S. HOOD from RODNEY's fleet, which made his force equal to nineteen sail of the line, one ship of fifty guns and seven frigates; and with this squadron he sailed for the Ches-

apeake, off which he arrived on the 5th Sept. The French fleet of twenty-four sail of the line was at anchor inside Cape Henry in Lynn Haven Bay without any order. The British fleet wore in sight with a leading North East gale, and as the French lay to leeward bearing South West from their adversaries, it is very evident that they were not only taken by surprise, but in such a position that it was utterly impossible to defend themselves. An officer with the slightest pretension to skill would have steered at once for the mist of the French fleet, and an action of one hour's duration would have decided the contest. There was no hope, hardly a third of it could have escaped, but GREAVES, to shew his superior knowledge of tactics, wore round on the Port tack (it was then called the Jarboard) and allow the French rear division of seven ships to stand out to sea across his bows without the slightest attempt to cut them off.

The Count DE GRASSE profited by the blunders of this stupid old fool, stood out to sea and fought an indecisive action with the British van for about two hours when both parties hauled off, and for four subsequent days confronted each other till the French Admiral thought proper to retire to his anchorage, where he was not followed by Admiral GREAVES, this latter specimen of imbecility failed to intercept the French squadron under M. DE BARRAS of eight sail of the line from Rhode Island with a valuable convoy, having on board the siege train for the siege of Yorktown, he, however, succeeded in having a 74 gun ship the *Terrible* so badly damaged that she had to be destroyed, and after calling a council of war sailed back to keep CLINTON company at New York.

After the failure of the General on the one hand and the Admiral on the other, to discharge the simplest requirements of their several duties, there could be no salvation for the miserable handful of troops at Yorktown, and SIR HENRY CLINTON has had the disgraceful notoriety of bringing two British armies to pass under the Caudine forks as a tribute to his gross stupidity, as well as the ignorance and imbecility of the ministers that employed him.

In closing this second act of the strategy of invasion which was completed by the surrender of Earl CORNWALLIS, and his troops at Yorktown on 19th October, 1781, it must be plain to the reader that on either side no accurate knowledge of the results of any given line of conduct was entertained; CLINTON, when he found WASHINGTON's army moving through the Jerseys on Yorktown, endeavoured to neutralize the movement by sending Arnold to ravage Connecticut; WASHINGTON in attempting that march put his whole cause at the hazard of a single stroke, if he failed there was an end to the Union, and up to the day of surrender there was no certainty, but he would fail; RODNEY's appearance in the Chesapeake which was pos-