

prudence and when it is necessary to be contemptible." Political rhymesters aided in casting ridicule on General and army. Lord J. Townshend sent the following couplet to the Earl of Dartmouth:

"The Saints, alas, have waxen strong,  
In vain your fasts and godly song  
To quell the rabble riot,  
Within his lines skulks valiant Gage,  
Like Yorick's starling in the cage,  
He cries "I can't get out."

Those patriotic gentlemen did not seem to consider that they were affording to the enemies of the Empire that precise encouragement which they wanted, and aiding as far as in their power its dismemberment. It is worth noting that their successors in the party are using their small but earnest endeavors in the same direction. The Manchester School of politicians at the head of whom stands the Right Hon. John Bright, wish to set the Colonies adrift and to place the honor of England as well as her vital interests in the hands of her foes. Traitors at home and abroad were busily engaged in endeavoring to dismember the British Empire at the close of 1774.

The military force at Boston was quite sufficient to keep the unruly and turbulent mob of that town in order, but throughout the Colonies they were considered as martyrs to the American cause. One of the great mistakes of the authorities of the Provinces was the looseness with which the militia laws were framed. Officers commanding those corps held their commissions not from the Crown but from the Assemblies, hence the feeling of allegiance was considerably weakened by their total independence, and it was entirely obliterated in those who had been brought into contact with the ignorant, supercilious, and immoral men who formed the great mass of the officers of the Royal troops. Taking advantage of this the Colonies had begun to organize, arm, and drill their militia at an early period of the contest, and this had been carried to such a length in Massachusetts as to have them ready to take the field on the shortest notice. Indeed, a certain number of each corps had volunteered to be ready for service at a minute's notice and hence were known as *minute men*.

Immediately on the Assembly of the new Provincial Congress at Cambridge, in February 1775, they published an address to the people calculated to alarm them with fresh apprehensions; stating that from information received they had reason to apprehend the British Ministry meant to devote to sudden destruction that Province in particular for having refused to submit to the most intolerable slavery, and they earnestly exhorted the militia in general and the minute men in particular to perfect themselves in discipline without delay. Resolutions were afterwards passed for providing and making arms, and the inhabitants of the Province were prohibited in the strictest manner from supplying the King's troops with anything requisite for military service.

Amongst the many disqualifications for

the onerous position in which he was placed none did more actual harm to his country than the total absence of that reticence so necessary in dealing with a deceitful and vigilant foe which characterized Gage; military prudence he neither knew nor understood; and he was incapable of keeping his own or any one else's counsel; consequently the disaffected scoundrel's within his lines knew every one of his movements and duly informed their friends outside, so that ample time was afforded to defeat his designs. Even to his dull understanding it was time to do something with the intention of preserving the Province to the British Crown. Having learned that the Provincial Congress were accumulating warlike stores and arms at Salem, a town fourteen miles east of Boston, he resolved to seize them. With this view he ordered a small detachment of troops, under the command of a field officer to take possession of some brass cannon and field pieces which had been brought there, and whatever military stores could be found. The troops were embarked on board a transport and landed at Marble Head, from which they marched to Salem, but the artillery had been removed, and, as it was ascertained, that morning; hoping to overtake them on the road the march was resumed till a small river over which there was a drawbridge was reached, but the bridge had been raised by the country people, who pre-emptorily refused to let it down, alleging with true Yankee falsehood and cunning that the road was not a public one and that the bridge was private property over which they had no right to pass without the owner's consent. As a boat was within reach the officer endeavored to make use of it for transporting his men, but some country people leaped into it and began to scuttle it with axes. A scuffle took place between them and the soldiers, but a clergyman who had witnessed the whole transaction prudently interfered and prevailed on the people to lower the drawbridge; the detachment passed over, but the day was so far spent that any attempt to overtake the artillery would be useless, so the detachment was marched back to Marble Head and re-embarked for Boston.

As might be expected Gage's garrulity ruined the expedition; the Colonists had ample intelligence of all he devised or did and the Provincial Congress sent in a committee to examine the Surgeon's stores with the commissary at Boston that they might learn to lay in what was necessary for their own army. About this time the aforesaid Congress had made one of those extraordinary movements which has characterized the whole of this rebellion, but which is charged by American orators and writers as one of the crying sins perpetrated by England against the people of the Colony, simply because the weapons furnished happened to be much more effectual in their hands than that of the Congress. Sargent, in his admirable history, says, "But there was one

sort of military supply that on either side has since the war been less loudly acknowledged than it was then eagerly sought. Before the first gun was fired at Concord or Lexington the Massachusetts Congress had induced the Stockbridge Indians to take up the hatchet and had regularly enrolled them in its army. The chief Sachem, who went by the euphonious title of Jehoiakim Mochikim, exchanged sentiments with Mr. Hancock, and informed the Congress that if they sent for him to fight they must expect him to fight in his own Indian way, and not in English fashion. All the orders he wished was to know where the enemy lay." They were not successful in perverting the Six Nations, the Penobscotts, Iroquois, and their address to the Mohawks wished those sages to take up the hatchet to prevent the probable increase of popery in Canada. The "fustian of fourth of July oration" is welcome to all the capital it can make of the "Massacre at Wyoming" after that sort of thing. It is needless to state that Washington was authorized to employ Indians and to pay them \$100 for every officer and \$30 for every private captured, which simply means scalped by Congress.

Conventions were assembled in the various Provinces, who assumed the duty of putting the country in a state of defence. By these resolutions were passed organising the militia and instituting corps of volunteers or minute men after the example of the New England Provinces, and contributions were raised from the people to be employed in the purchase of arms and ammunition, but the object of those preparations were covered with their thin veil of professed loyalty to the Sovereign and attachment to Great Britain. The time, however, had arrived when actual collision precipitated a conflict which had been brought about by so much deceit, hypocrisy, and villainy.

It was known at Boston that a considerable quantity of military stores were deposited at Concord, a town some twenty miles inland, on the night, between the 18th and 19th of April, Gen. Gage detailed the Grenadiers and light infantry of his army, under the command of Lt.-Col. Smith of the 10th Regiment, and Major Pitcairne of the Marines, with orders to proceed to Concord and destroy those stores; as an instance of how matters were managed by the British Commander-in-Chief the following anecdote is illustrative. On the 18th April he told Lord Algernon Percy, then one of the Brigadier Generals serving in Boston and an officer of great skill, that he intended to send a detachment to Concord under Col. Smith, "who knew that he was to go but not where," he, the general, meant it to be a secret expedition, and begged Lord Percy to keep it a profound secret. As this noble man was passing from the General's quarters he saw eight or ten men in conversation on the common, and as he passed one of them said "the British troops might march but they would miss their aim," and being asked