

CHAPTER IX

THE CONTINENTAL OR REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON's portrait, known as the Pitcher Portrait, presents a man with a hard, straight mouth of liberal measure. A prominent heavy nose, a broad space between eyes not specially remarkable, a fine forehead, and a dignified expression. His features were slightly scarred by smallpox, and his somewhat ungainly mouth, as all portraits represent it, was due to an ill-fitting set of artificial teeth, and in one portrait at least to a partial absence of teeth in the upper jaw. His stature was tall—"the measure of a gentleman six feet high and proportionately made," as he says of himself. As described by another in 1778, "he was remarkably tall, full six feet, erect and well-proportioned. A well-made man, but lanky, with a tendency to emaciation." His voice, by another observer, was said to be "hollow and indistinct, owing, it was surmised, to artificial teeth before his upper jaw occasioning a flatness." A long face, slightly marked with smallpox, with an almost cadaverous tint of skin, illuminated by eyes that, to some observers, were blue, to others grey, lively, piercing, bright, severe, sprightly, dull, and so forth. All accounts speak of him as dignified, grave in demeanour, born to command.

There are numerous portraits of him, generally quite in accord, except a heroic painting which might with equal propriety be labelled the "Marquis of Granby," or "Lord Ligonier," or "Sir William Howe," or "Lord