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FOR "THE REVIEW."

BESIDE A LAKE.

BY G. C. H.

Beside a lake whose placid breast
Reflects the hills and dappled sky
Within a glen where shadows rest
And perfume-laden zephyr's sigh.

Beside a stream whose rippling voice
Spread melody throughout the wood
There, tired of men, and cities' noise,
I sought for peace in solitude.

I built my hut beside the stream
Where limpid wavelets lapped the shore,
Where softened fell the noontide beam
And wild flowers bloomed around the door.

And there I looked for happiness
Without alloy of sin or care,
But nought could gloomy thoughts repress,
They darker seemed with none to share.

I thought of happy days gone by,
Of friends—no longer friends to me;
I felt HER presence ever nigh—
'T was vain from memory to flee.

But once when slumber closed mine eyes
A spirit voice thrilled through my soul,
"Poor egotist, from self arise
"If thou wouldst ever self controul.

"Once more to duty's path return;
"O, fear it not, it leads to peace!"
I woke, my fate no more to mourn,
And toil from sorrow gave release.
Ottawa, Oct. 26th, 1868.

PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA BILL.

PASSED 1755.

By the Author of the Campaigns of 1754-64.

While presenting to the readers of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW a synopsis of the Military operations of the Campaigns of 1754-64, reference was made to an Act of the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania passed in the year 1755, for the purpose of organising the Militia of that Province—as it would have unnecessarily extended the analysis then attempted it was not published in the order of the narrative—but as it exhibits in a strong light the peculiar feelings which animated the Legislative Assemblies of the Quaker Province at a period so immediately preceding "its actual rebellion against Great Britain"—it is thought advisable to present it unabridged to the readers of the REVIEW as illustrative of the feelings and local politics which led to the so called war of the Revolution.

The history of that war has yet to be written—not only with respect to its Military and Naval operations—but to the political intrigues which precipitated a contest at once unnatural and uncalled for. To thoroughly understand the whole bearings of the questions involved, it will be necessary to analyse the social and political life of the American colonists; and the Militia Bill, under consideration, furnishes a partial illustration of the latter phase of their economy—it is an important and interesting subject of speculation as to what might have been the condition of those colonies had they remained attached to the British Empire and their condition as an independent people trying to create a nationality.

AN ACT for the better ordering and regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for Military purposes within the Province of Pennsylvania, passed November 25th, 1755.

WHEREAS this Province was first settled by (and a majority of the Assemblies have ever since been of) the people called Quakers; who, though they do not, as the world is now circumstanced, condemn the use of arms in others, yet are principled against bearing arms themselves: and to make any law to compel them thereto against their consciences would not be only to violate a fundamental principle in our constitution and be a direct breach of our charter privileges, but would also in effect be to commence persecution against all that part of the inhabitants of the Province; and for them, by any law, to compel others to bear arms and exempt themselves, would be inconsistent and partial, yet forasmuch as by the general toleration and equity of our laws great numbers of people of other religious denominations are come among us who are under no such restraint some of whom have been disciplined in the art of war and conscientiously think it their duty to fight in defence of their country their wives their families and estates and such have an equal right to liberty of conscience with others.

And whereas a great number of petitions from the several counties of this Province have been presented to the House setting forth: That the petitioners are very willing

to defend themselves and their country and desirous of being formed into regular bodies for that purpose instructed and disciplined under proper officers with suitable and legal authority representing withal. That unless measures of this kind are taken so as to unite them together, subject them to due command and thereby give them confidence in each other, they cannot assemble to oppose the enemy without the utmost danger of exposing themselves to confusion and destruction.

And whereas the voluntary assembly of great bodies of armed men from different parts of the Province on any occasional alarm, whether true or false, as of late hath happened, without call or authority from the Government and without due order and direction among themselves, may be attended with danger to our neighboring Indian friends and allies as well as to the internal peace of the Province.

And whereas the Governor hath frequently recommended it to the Assembly that in preparing and passing a law for such purposes they should have due regard to scrupulous and tender consciences which cannot be done where compulsive means are used to force men into military service, therefore as we represent all people of the Province, and are composed of members of different religious persuasions, we do not think it reasonable that any should through a want of legal powers be in the least restrained from doing what they judge it their duty to do for their own security and the public good; we in compliance with the said petitions and recommendations do offer it to the Governor to enact, and be it enacted by the Honorable Robert Hunter Morris, Esq., with the King's royal approbation, Lieutenant Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquire, true and absolute proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania and of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon the Delaware, by and with the consent of the representatives of the freemen of said Province in general assembly met and by authority of the same; That from and after publication of this Act it shall and may be lawful for freemen of this Prov-