

Hill and Eutaw Springs, who had sent him flying across the Roanoke, and with whose forces in open field he would have no manner of chance, while glory, profit and honor was to be gained by capturing the small garrisons in detail and driving them from the country by a series of small actions and well considered manœuvres for which his own force was well adapted, he could therefore afford to leave Lord Cornwallis to pursue his knight errantry in Virginia, with the pleasing consciousness that it was just possible the British army so employed would be brought within striking distance of the combined French and American forces, an issue which was amongst the probabilities the instant it crossed to Roanoke.

In order to assist the operations of Lord Cornwallis in South Carolina, a force of 1600 men had been sent into Virginia under the command of Benedict Arnold, now a Brigadier-General in the British army, a reinforcement of 2000 troops under Maj.-Gen. Phillips, landed on the 26th of March in the Chesapeake. Gen. Arnold had begun to fortify Portsmouth on the Elizabeth River and the works were in a state of forwardness when Gen. Phillips superseded him, as that officer did not believe the post to be of sufficient value or at all eligible for the purpose required as a good offensive or defensive post, he only completed those portions of the works which were in a sufficient state of progress and leaving a garrison, on the 18th of April he embarked his troops on the smallest vessels of the fleet and sailed up the James River landing at Burrell's Ferry, whence he marched to Williamsburgh and destroyed stores and property to a large amount. The Marquis La Fayette followed his movements to Bermuda Hundred, where the British troops re-embarked on the 2nd of May and sailed slowly down the river. It appears to have been Gen. Phillips' intention to decoy the Marquis La Fayette a sufficient distance down the river and by taking advantage of the first favorable wind to sail back again up stream and put the troops ashore on the left bank of the James, a movement which would have compelled him to risk an engagement or suffer severe loss in any attempt at crossing York River, as the movement if successful would have shut up his army between it and the James; but on the 7th of May a letter was received from Lord Cornwallis stating his intention to effect a junction with Gen. Phillips' army, and securing Petersburg on the Rappahannock (since so famous as the place where the last great effort was made for Southern independence in the year 1864) as the proper place for such a junction. Accordingly the fleet moved up the river, landing one division of the army at Brandon and another at City Point, and on the 9th of May both occupied Petersburg. On the 13th Gen. Phillips died of fever and the command again devolved on Gen. Arnold.

The Marquis La Fayette divining the intention of this movement endeavored by

forced marches to reach Petersburg, but on his arrival at Osborne's, on the James River, he found the British already in possession, he therefore took up a position between Richmond and Wilton.

Lord Cornwallis had crossed the Roanoke at Halifax without opposition, and the fords of the Meherrin and Nottoway having been secured a junction of the two armies was effected at Petersburg on the 20th of May.

The first object was an attack on the Marquis La Fayette's army, but fortune seems to have favored him in a much greater degree than he, or rather the folly of the British Generals deserved. In this case the reasonable plan would have been to have crossed the James River above Richmond, while a demonstration in the opposite direction engaged the attention of the Franco-American General, and with the aid of the fleet shut him up in the Peninsula formed by the James and York Rivers, as Gen. Phillips intended to have done. Instead of this Lord Cornwallis marched from Petersburg on the 24th of May and crossed the James at Westover, thirty-four miles below La Fayette's encampment. The British forces being greatly superior to the regular troops of Congress then in Virginia. This movement being easily understood by the Marquis de La Fayette he at once broke up his camp and retreated towards Maryland in order to form a junction with General Wayne, who was on his march to reinforce him with 800 men from Pennsylvania. He was pursued for some time, but so rapid were his movements that it was found impossible to prevent his junction with Gen. Wayne, and the British troops proceeded to the upper part of Hanover county destroying such public stores as could be discovered on the way. A dashing raid of Tarleton at the head of 250 mounted troops broke up the session of the Assembly at Charlottesville, capturing seven members and destroying great quantities of stores. Another expedition, commanded by Colonel Simcoe, of 500 men, was directed against the Prusso-American General Baron Von Steuben, who was guarding a large quantity of stores at the junction of the Fluvanna and Rappahannock Rivers, forming the James River, and called the Point of Forks. The Baron retreated and crossed the river, but by a clever manœuvre was compelled to abandon them, when they were destroyed by Colonel Simcoe.

The British army had fallen back to Williamsburgh and were followed by the Marquis de La Fayette, with whom the Baron Von Steuben's baffled force was joined, but they were unable to effect anything. Some signal success was now wanting to revive the spirits and credit of the American Congress. The paper currency on which they had hitherto sustained their credit and maintained the contest had become so depreciated that it no longer represented any definite value. Their navy had been reduced by captures to two frigates; their losses in trade and by the capture of St.

Eustatius followed by the destruction of stores in Virginia, reduced them to the verge of bankruptcy, and on the 10th of May Washington writes, "From the post of Saratoga to that of Dobb's ferry inclusive there is not at this moment one day's supply of meat for the army." Indeed, for want of pay and necessaries the troops were ready to mutiny, and it was said that the army would disband for want of subsistence.

Under these circumstances Congress renewed an application made for the three previous years to the Court of France for the co-operation of a French fleet and army, and now urged with the force of despair as being the only means of saving their affairs from ruin. Looking at the desperate state of their ally's affairs the French Court resolved to grant the desired co-operation and dispatched M. de Barras with despatches for Count de Rochambeau announcing the intended co-operation. As soon as it was known that M. de Barras had arrived Washington hastened to Connecticut that he might hold a conference with the French General. It was determined at once to strike at one or other of the British posts, and Washington wrote at once to Congress requesting the battalions comprising his army might be filled to their full complement, and that the New England States should hold 6200 militiamen in readiness for immediate service.

Whether by accident or design the letter written by Washington to Congress were allowed to fall into the hands of the British foraging parties, who transmitted it Sir H. Clinton, with whom it produced the effect best calculated to forward the success of the designs concocted between the French and American Generals by alarming him for the safety of New York, and induced him to make a requisition for part of the troops under the command of Lord Cornwallis in Virginia, thus weakening what was in reality the vulnerable point in his plan of campaign. No successful attempt could have been made against New York supported as it was by a powerful fleet, but as the British General and Admiral had their attention concentrated on that point; the Count de Grasse, who had cleverly outmanœvered Sir George Rodney, appeared with a fleet off the Chesapeake and sealed the fate of British supremacy over the revolted Colonies. The indecision of Sir Henry Clinton and the indolence of Sir George Rodney, aided by the imbecility of Admiral Graves, gave Washington and Rochambeau the coveted opportunity which they did not fail to improve.

The 140 Papal zouaves who left Montreal and went to Rome in March, 1868, and enlisted in the service of the Pope, are about returning to Montreal. Their two years' term of enlistment will expire on Saturday, and on this week the 140 zouaves, with the exception of a few men who have re-enlisted for an additional six months, will leave Rome en route for Canada.