

"Even the elements of subordination had then scarcely been introduced. Officers and men had rushed to the field, under the ardent impulses of a common patriotism; and the selections of the former by the troops or their appointments, which first occurred, were rather accidental and temporary, than controlled from any regard to superior position or acquirement. All to a great extent had occupied at home, a social equality, the influence of which still remained. The distinctions of rank, and the restraints of military discipline and etiquette, were yet to be established."

Philip Schuyler was an honest man, an open, able, gallant foe; he did his full duty by the cause he espoused, and he never received the acknowledgments due to him, much less the reward to which he was entitled. As in the case of George H. Thomas, he was dead before his countrymen had learned to know and appreciate him.

Why? Because both these illustrious Americans were too grand and too great for the measuring capacity of little, of ordinary men. The masses could not understand either Thomas or Schuyler, not only from sheer inability, but because they were perverted and misled by parties interested in underrating them. It requires a *very* man—not "bread and butter" men—to comprehend the truth, capacity, generosity, and magnanimity of such exceptional specimens of humanity as Thomas and Schuyler.

Creasy, in his "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," one of the best known and one of the most highly esteemed works in our language in this generation, considers the "Surrender of Burgoyne" as the thirteenth of those fields of decision—"those few battles, whose contrary event would have essentially varied the drama of the world in all its subsequent scenes." This is undoubtedly the case. It was the greatest event of the American Revolution. It was the turning point—the "Gettysburg" of the seven years' terrible struggle.

There were no foreign arms present to share the glory. It was purely an American triumph. No Frenchman fixed a bayonet or fired a shot. The Colonists did the work for themselves. No French sinews of war assisted; no French ammunition was in the barrels of the victorious guns, or in the cartridge boxes of the victors. No foreign talent, so greatly overestimated in popular histories, directed, nor foreign gallantry led the men. Our people themselves won this success in the field, and it, in turn, won for them and for us the French alliance and co-operation. Had