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THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.

AIR—*The British Grenadiers.*

On old St. Lawrence banks they stand,
The men of noble mien;
In pride of arms to guard the land—
The land of forest green.
These are no hirelings bought with gold,
Nor slaves of craven fears,
But proudly they are called the bold,
Canadian Volunteers.

The meteor flag that o'er them waves;
Fair emblem of the free;
It shadows not a land of slaves;
Bright star of liberty.
Its hallowed honors to the sun
Have shone a thousand years,
And its laurels have been won
By Canadian Volunteers.

The air they breathe is that which flows
O'er lake and mountain free,
And where Niagara thundering flows
We hear that lullaby.
Their paths are on those mighty floods
Where rushing cataracts foam,
And far within the dark old woods
There is their forest home.

The foe that dares to tread our soil
Shall fall before the brave,
And ruffian bands of traitors vile
Get but a traitor's grave;
While, serving with some noble chief,
We win a deathless name,
Entwining with our maple leaf
The laurel wreath of fame.

These are the men at duty's call,
By glory ever led.
To charge the batt'ry, scale the wall,
Or stretch on glory's bed.
But, gentle as the peaceful dove,
To home and friends to dear;
The first in war, the first in love,
A Canadian Volunteer.

W. H. PALMER.

Tudor, Sept. 1st, 1869.

THE REVOLT OF THE

British American Colonies, 1764-84.

CHAPTER XXIV.

While the British Commander-in-Chief was astounding the world with unheard of military manoeuvres his subordinates were not slow in following his example of slothful inattention to their respective duties. Gen.

Prescott, in command of the troops at Rhode Island, took up his quarters at some distance from the lines of his encampment and was captured by a partisan named Barton on the night of the 10th of July, 1777, who crossed the Naragansett Bay with a few chosen men in whale boats, passing and re-passing sentries and guard boats unperceived. Like all indolent men Howe was good natured—only another name for *irresolute*—and he at once consented to exchange Gen. Lee for such a useless soldier as Prescott.

But those were the least of Howe's faults. His conduct of the campaign is the most extraordinary episode in this remarkable contest. Instead of carrying his troops up the North River to Albany and opening a communication with Burgoyne and Canada, a measure sure to ruin Washington's army, without the necessity of fighting it at all, by simply cutting off its supplies, he engaged in a Quixotic expedition to Philadelphia, the value of which at that time it was impossible to estimate, but it could have no effect on the final issue except a disastrous one. The capture of particular towns or cities in the United States will not determine a contest: the strategical and objective lines are on the rivers; of course it would be necessary to hold the towns, but not in the way Howe held Philadelphia.

On the 5th of July some 17,000 British troops of all arms were embarked on board the transports at Sandy Hook, which remained pent up in the holds of the vessels till the 25th, and this during the hottest season of the year. At New York General Clinton was left with a force of 13,000 men, while several battalions were stationed at Rhode Island.

The troops under Sir William Howe sailed from Sandy Hook on the 25th of July with the intention of sailing up the Delaware, but when off the Cape on the 30th he received intelligence that the Americans had obstructed the river and fortified the islands therein. Averse to taking any trouble he bore away for the Chesapeake, and arrived at the head of navigation of the Elk River on the 24th of August. On the 26th the

troops landed on that remarkable peninsula formed by the estuaries of the Susquehanna, Potomac, Rappahannock, James, and York Rivers, and the estuary of the Delaware now known as the State of the same name, and as the distance between the Chesapeake and the Delaware did not exceed twenty-three miles the British troops were at once put in motion with the intention of marching on Philadelphia, situated about five miles above the junction of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.

On the 8th of September they had reached the western branch of the Brandywine, a small river falling into the Delaware at Wilmington, and found themselves in front of the American army.

As soon as Gen. Washington had ascertained that Philadelphia was Gen. Howe's objective point he recalled the outposts from the neighborhood of Staten Island, and collecting all his available forces, took up a position to cover that city, but having ascertained that the British had sailed for the Chesapeake he crossed the Delaware and determined to defend the fords on the Brandywine. The disposition of the troops would not give a high opinion of Washington's abilities as a General. They were posted with their right resting on Chad's ford, on the Brandywine, their left on Christianna Creek, about half way between Wilmington on the Delaware and Christiana,—in other words, on the "bight" of land formed by the Brandywine and Delaware, a position in which it was only necessary to turn his right and hem the whole army helplessly in between two impassible rivers. The advance of the British instead of crossing at Chad's ford passed over the river at Jeffries' ford, more than a mile above its junction with the western branch, on the 11th of September, while Gen. Kuyphausen with the second division, about 5,000 men, marched directly on Chadsford for the purpose of attracting the attention of the American General. This demonstration had the effect of making the latter change position with great rapidity across the Brandywine in confusion, and detach Gen. Sullivan to cover his right by occupying a position at Bennington.