



# The Volunteer Review

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MALENE.

BY CARROLL RYAN.

I looked on thee in former days,  
And thought thee wondrous fair;  
'Twas rapture then to fondly gaze,  
And feel thy presence there.  
Thine eyes possessed a happy beam,  
Thy cheeks a rosy glow,—  
Thou wert as lovely as a dream,  
But that was long ago,  
Malene,  
Yes, very long ago.

When, arm in arm upon the hill,  
We strayed away so long,  
And never felt the time until  
We heard the night-bird's song.  
The lights upon the river shone  
That darkly rolled below,  
When thou confest to be my own—  
But that was long ago,  
Malene,  
Yes, very long ago.

I look upon thee sadly now,  
Remembering that scene,—  
The whisper of a broken vow—  
And think what might have been.  
It was a boyish dream divine,  
As such I let it go,—  
I take thy little hand in mine,  
But not as long ago,  
Malene,  
No, not as long ago.

Ottawa, 25th Oct., 1869.

### THE REVOLT

OF THE

## British American Colonies, 1764—84.

#### CHAPTER XXVIII.

The campaign of 1778 was opened by the British troops with a foraging expedition into New Jersey to the town of Salem. Here after a variety of skirmishes they succeeded in their main object that of collecting all the forage which the neighborhood could afford, and returned to Philadelphia. Beyond the ground the British General covered with his outposts no portion of the country belonged to Great Britain, and a force of some 17,000 men suffered themselves to be shut up in that town by 5,000 ragged and half starved peasants under the command of General Washington. The very

flour supplied to the people of Philadelphia was only ground by his permission at mills five miles from town. As a matter of course Howe was surrounded by spies that conveyed intelligence to Washington of every movement, and himself and officers, by their licentious and shameful conduct, did more harm to British interests than their actions in the field, because the latter might be viewed as unavoidable misfortune, whereas the former was the result of vicious morals for which no excuse could be found. It might truly be said that Gen. Howe contrived to deprive Great Britain of any friends she had on the American continent. Occasional raids on the country people, varied by skirmishes with the militia, brought the operations up to the month of May.

The French Marquis de LaFayette had been commissioned as a Major-General by Congress in the previous year, and on the 19th of May was detached to take a post at a point seven miles in advance of Valley Forge at Barren Hill. The object of this movement was most important as it placed the Schuylkill between Washington's camp and Lafayette's post, but it was so much nearer Philadelphia, and as it was not denied that the evacuation of that town by the British troops was a matter of certainty, partly because Howe could or would not do anything with them there or elsewhere and partly from the necessity which an insufficient naval force imposed.

The French nation had openly espoused the cause of the United States, entered into a league offensive and defensive with her, and as an earnest was about despatching material assistance in the shape of an army and fleet to be employed in active co-operation in America.

The objects proposed by the French Court would appear to be the recovery of Canada or possibly the transfer of the allegiance of the revolted Provinces. Franklin and Silas Deane, who negotiated the treaty, were clever and unscrupulous men; what its secret provisions were it is not now possible to tell, although a very considerable impulse was given to it by the celebrated Beaumarchais, who had largely invested in contra-

band of war, and who would have been ruined if the rebellion had collapsed. While Penn and his colleagues were trying to hoodwink the Ministry, Lords, and Commons of Great Britain in 1776, Silas Deane was laying plots to burn Liverpool and other maritime ports in Great Britain, giving commissions to privateers to prey on British commerce, and taking advantage of the factious conduct of the Whigs to ruin the Empire.

Other reasons operated with the French Government—the necessity for employing the people to avert a catastrophe which occurred fifteen years later, and if possible acquire an extended area for commercial enterprise. About the whole affair an obscurity rests which there is no chance of unavailing. The principal actors on the French side perished miserably, and those on the American were too astute to allow evidence damaging to themselves to appear.

Gen. Howe, having succeeded in destroying British prestige in America, thought it time to retire on his laurels, and in October, 1777, had forwarded his resignation with a desire to be recalled. The acceptance and permission to retire home was accorded and reached him on the 14th April; but he was directed to use his best endeavors till his successor was appointed in endeavoring to fulfil the mission he had accepted, and which for the last eight months was at any time within two days' march of his headquarters, viz., the dispersion and destruction of the American army.

Lafayette's exposed position afforded ample opportunity for striking an effective blow; his force was so disposed that it could either be captured or cut to pieces, and a movement on Washington's lines would have dispersed the only troops worthy the name under arms for Congress at this period.

For once he kept his own council, and on the night of the 20th May detached 5,000 men under Gen. Grant, (the blunderer at Fort du Quesne in 1758,) on the road parallel to the Delaware, along which they marched till a point six miles from the city was reached, where, wheeling to the left, they struck the road leading to Matson's ford on the Schuylkill, within one mile of