

AN AIM.

Give me a man with an aim,
Whatever that aim may be,
Whether it's wealth, or whether it's fame,
It matters not to me.
Let him walk in the path of right,
And keep his aim in sight,
And walk and play with faith alway,
With his eye on the glittering height.

Give me a man who says,
"I will do something well,
And make the fleeting days
A story of labor tell."
Though the aim he has be small,
It is better than none at all;
With something to do the whole year through,
He will not stumble or fall.

But Satan weaves a snare
For the feet of those who stray
With never a thought of care
Where the path may lead away.
The man who has no aim,
Not only leaves no name
When this life is done, but ten to one,
He leaves a record of shame.

Give me a man whose heart
Is filled with ambition's fire,
Who sets his mark in the start,
And keeps moving it higher,
Better to die in the strife,
The hands with labor rife,
Than to glide with the stream in an idle dream,
And live a purposeless life.

Better to strive and fall,
And never reach the goal,
Than to drift along with time,
An aimless worthless soul,
Ah, better to climb and fall,
Or sow, though the yield be small,
Than to throw away day after day,
And never strive at all.

A RELIC OF THE REVOLUTION.

(From the U.S. Army and Navy Journal)

We are indebted to a gentleman residing in Castine, Me., for the following copy of an interesting diary kept during the revolutionary war by Mr. Calef, a volunteer, as he styles himself. It will be observed that the disastrous, and even disgraceful result of the expedition whose progress is described in this diary, was owing principally to the incompetency, or something worse, of the commodore in command; but, in justice to his memory, it should be stated that subsequently he was reinstated in command, after having been cashiered, and redeemed his character from the stain of cowardice at least. How different would have been the conduct of our present naval officers! They would have at once dashed into the harbor, captured the three British ships-of-war, and of course the fort and its defenders must have surrendered:

On the 17th day of June, 1779, Brigadier-General Francis McLeop landed at Majorbigduce (Penobscot), with about 700 of His Majesty's forces, composed of detachments from the Seventy fourth and Eighty-second regiments, to take post in the eastern country of New England. The time from this day to the 17th of July was taken up in clearing a spot to erect a fort, and building the same, and a battery near the shore, with storehouses, etc.

July 18. Intelligence was received that a fleet and army are preparing at Boston to besiege Penobscot, of which little notice was taken. Captain Henry Mowatt, of His Majesty's sloop *Albany*, having been many years on the American station, and well acquainted with the disposition of the inhabitants; and of the importance of the country of the Penobscot to the Americans for fire-wood, lumber, masts, cod, and river fish, gave credit to the information, and ordered the three sloops-of-war into the best situation to defend the harbor, annoy the enemy, and co operate with the land forces.

July 19. The intelligence of yesterday

gains credit, whereupon the General, in order to make the proper dispositions for an immediate defence, desists, for the present, from his purpose of proceeding in a regular way as to the fort; and prepares to fortify in a manner more expeditious and better suited to the present emergency; in doing which he shows the utmost vigilance and activity, giving everywhere the necessary directions, visiting incessantly, night and day, the different parts of the works, and thus by his example animating the men to proceed, regardless of fatigue, with vigor and alacrity in their operations,

The inspector of the inhabitants begs leave of the General to call in the people to assist in carrying on the works, which being granted, about 100 of the inhabitants came in (with their captain* at their head) as volunteers; and having worked three days gratis, cleared the land of wood in front of the fort, with satisfaction of the General, who returned them his thanks.

July 20. All hands being at work, preparing to receive the enemy.

At noon Captain Mowatt, having made every preparation in his power to receive the enemy, secure the harbor, etc., sent 180 men on shore from the ship-of-war to work on the fort.

July 21. Intelligence is received that a fleet of near forty sail of vessels had sailed from Boston eastward. All hands at work day and night.

July 22. Nothing remarkable. All hands at work day and night. This evening a spy brought an account that forty sail of vessels put into Townsend Harbor yesterday.

July 23. Every person busily employed. The inspector calls a great number of the inhabitants to work, who are employed in felling trees, raising an abatis round the fort, building platforms for the guns, etc. Saw three sail in the offing. Several canoes from the islands below came to advise the General of a large number of vessels being becalmed off St. George's Island, standing with their heads to the eastward. All doubt of an attack from the enemy is now vanished.

Saturday, July 24. At 4 P.M. discovered a large fleet standing up the bay, which, from various circumstances, we believed to be the armament that, according to intelligence received, had been fitted out at Boston to besiege this place. On this account Captain Mowatt thought proper to detain the *North* and *Nautilus* sloops, which had been ordered for other service. At 5 P.M., by signal from the *Albany*, the seamen, who had been for some days past at work in raising the southeast bastion of the fort, repaired on board their respective ships (which were immediately cleared for action), and, as had been usual, on every evening exercised at their quarters. The *Albany*, *North*, and *Nautilus* had dropped down the harbor and moored in a well-formed and close line of battle, across the entrance, immediately within the rocks on M—b—c point and the point of *Nautilus* or Cross-Island, giving a berth out of the line of fire to three transports, stationed and prepared to slip and run foul of the enemy's ships should they attempt to enter the harbor. The troops were encamped about half a mile from the works, Seamen's battery 7 quite finished. But on the appearance of the enemy the works were put in a more defensible state, some cannon were mounted, and the little army

*John Perkin's, Robert's father.

Also called as being the work of the seamen only, under the direction of Lieutenant Brooke, of His Majesty's ship *North*.

were in garrison the next morning. Guard-boats during the night watched the motions of the enemy, who are discovered to have come to an anchor about three or four leagues off, in the narrows of Penobscot.

July 25. At 10 A.M. a brig appeared at some distance from the harbor a mouth and after reconnoitring the situation of the men of war, stood back into the fleet. At noon the enemy's fleet, consisting of thirty seven sail of ships—brigs and transports—arrived in the bay off the harbor. The transports proceeded about half a mile up Penobscot river, and came to an anchor, while the armed ships and brigs stood off and on, and a boat from each ship repaired on board their flagship, which had thrown out a signal for that purpose. At 3 P.M. nine ships, forming into three divisions, stood toward the King's ships, and as they advanced in the line, hove to, and engaged. A very brisk cannonade continued four glasses when the enemy bore up and came to anchor in the bay without. The King's ships suffered only in their rigging. The fire of the enemy was random and irregular, and their manoeuvres as to backing and filling bespoko confusion, particularly in the first division, which scarcely got from the line of fire when the second began to engage. The second and third division appeared to have but one object in view—that of cutting the springs of the men-of-war, to swing them from the bearing of their broadside, and thereby to afford their fleet an entrance into the harbor. During the cannonade with the shipping, the enemy made an attempt to land their troops on B—e, but were repulsed with some loss. On the retreat of the enemy's troops and ships, the garrison manned their works and gave three cheers to the men-of-war which were returned, and soon after the General and field officers went down to the beach and also gave three cheers which were returned from the ships. Guard-boats and ship's companies during the night lay at their quarters.

July 26. At 10 A.M. the enemy's ship got under weigh, and forming their divisions as yesterday, stood in and engaged the King's ships four glasses and a half. The damages sustained this day also, were chiefly in the rigging at the extreme ends of the ships, and the fire of the enemy appears again to be directed to the moorings, which attempt not proving successful, they bore up and anchored without. The enemy again attempted to land their troops, but were driven back with some little loss. At 6 P.M. the enemy having stationed two brigs of fourteen guns and one sloop of twelve on the east side of *Nautilus* Island, landed 200 men and dislodged a party of twenty marines, taking possession of four ½ pounders (two not mounted), and a small quantity of ammunition. At 7 P.M. it being found that the enemy were busy at work, and they had landed some heavy artillery, which they were getting up to the heights of the island, and against which the men-of-war could not act in their present station, it was judged expedient to move them further up the river. This was accordingly done, and the line formed as before. The transports moved up at the same time and anchored within the men-of-war. Guard-boats and the ship's companies, as usual, lying at their quarters.

July 27. Pretty quiet all this day. A few shots from some snips of the enemy were aimed at the spall battery on Majorbigduce point, which are returned with a degree of success, one ship having been driven from her station. Observed the enemy very busy erecting their battery on *Nautilus* Island. The garrison being much in want