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SOLITUDE FOR TWO.

BY CARROLL RYAN.

'Tis sweet to rove upon the hills
Among the trees and flow'rs,
Or sit beside the laughing rills
That glide near sunny bow'rs;
To muse alone, and gentle thought
Delightedly to woo;
But sweeter were that solitude
In solitude for two!

To listen to the wild birds sing,
To gaze upon the sky,
Where spirits of the forest fling,
Their long arms wild and high.
Such things I know are very sweet
In scenes we love to view,
But O! their joy is more complete
In solitude for two!

O! who would care for loneliness—
A spirit pure and kind
Such solitude can but oppress,
Or half awake the mind.
When I would gaze on scenes like this
Be happy, glad and true,
Let one fair being share my bliss
In solitude for two.

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,
1764-84.

CHAPTER VIII.

Immediately after entering on his government General Gage ordered some regiments of foot and a detachment of artillery to Boston, and these were encamped on the common between the town and the narrow neck of land called Boston Neck, which joins the peninsula on which the town is built to the main land; when troops were formerly stationed at Boston, desertion was much encouraged by the inhabitants, and the same practice being again revived a guard was placed upon Boston Neck to prevent it. This was magnified by the busy plotters in the town into an attempt to cut off the communication between the town and country and compel the inhabitants of the former, by force of famine, to submit to such terms as might be imposed on them. A report to this effect having been spread about the country the people of Worcester county assembled in great numbers and sent mes-

sengers to inquire into the truth of the report. These were charged to assure the people of Boston that several thousand armed men were ready to come to their assistance should it be necessary, but at the same time if they surrendered their liberties that the people of the country would not hold themselves bound by their acts.

An energetic Governor would at once have accepted the situation, proclaimed the whole Province under martial law and put down by force any assemblage of people for illegal purposes. This would have drawn out the loyal, determined the adhesion of the wavering and left the violent in a minority. Unfortunately England was not represented by a soldier distinguished for talent and her cause was ruined by being allowed to go by default, as lawyers say.

In the month of August an authentic copy of the Act altering the constitution of the Province arrived at Boston with the Commissions from the King to those who were to constitute the new Council, which was to consist of thirty-six members, but twenty-four only accepted the appointment, and having qualified, writs were issued by the Governor with their advice for the meeting of a new Assembly in October.

The rage of the mob was at once directed against those who had accepted seats in the new Council and the greatest number, to save their persons and property, were obliged to resign their appointments. When the Superior Court sat for the administration of justice the juries refused to be sworn and the inferior officers of the court declined acting under the new regulations. So completely had the system of resistance organized by the demagogues become law that from this time forth civil government was entirely dissolved in the Province of Massachusetts. Under the name of freedom a reign of terror was established, enforced by a brutal mob. No place was safe for a man to utter sentiments different from the prevailing idea except under the protection of British bayonets, and it is a pity that this efficient weapon for coercing unruly scoundrels was not brought into effective use at this period by an able and energetic Governor. That

the issue of all this agitation might be no longer doubtful the demagogues, and the mob compelled every man suspected of attachment to Great Britain to fly to Boston. Tar and feathers were liberally apportioned as the most effective argument in favor of freedom. Arms were provided by those who were without them. Ammunition and warlike stores began to be collected, and the young men were trained in military discipline.

In the autumn of 1774 the Province of Massachusetts was in open rebellion,—a fact not recognized by His Majesty's Representative there. To counteract as far as possible the effects of those courses, General Gage began to fortify Boston Neck under the idea that he was providing for the safety of his troops, consisting of between four and five thousand men, and thus, by keeping them within those lines, initiated the first of that series of military blunders by which the British arms were disgraced in North America and that country wrested from the British Empire. Instead of confining them within the lines of a town which two gunboats could defend, advantage should have been taken of the presence of such a body of troops to enforce law and order by seizing the persons of the leaders as well as occupying those towns which were afterwards of such service to the rebels; in fact by enforcing martial law and shooting down every scoundrel caught with arms in his hands.

With more prudence than previous conduct would warrant us to expect the powder and other military stores deposited in the magazines at Charlestown, Cambridge, and the Medford powder house was removed to Boston lest the mob should seize on them. These proceedings excited those already in rebellion and very soon worked up to a degree of frenzy by the machinations of the violent party they again assembled and were with difficulty restrained from marching to Boston and attacking the troops. A false report was spread in Connecticut at the same time that an attack was begun upon the inhabitants of Boston by the ships and troops, when several thousands assembled in arms and marched a considerable distance