

the advice given him by Lieut. Col. Tarleton at an early period of the siege, but under existing circumstances was not as practicable, and transported across the river to Gloucester nearly half of his available force, when a squall disturbed the operations, and with characteristic indecision those that had crossed were withdrawn and the last hope of the British having passed away; in the forenoon the British General despatched a flag of truce to General Washington with the following letter:—

"YORK, VIRGINIA,
"October 17th, 1781.

"Sir,—I propose a cessation of hostilities for twenty-four hours that two officers may be appointed by each side to meet at Mr. Moore's house to settle terms for the surrender of the posts of York and Gloucester.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,
"CORNWALLIS.

"His Excellency General Washington."

To this communication the following answer was returned:—

"CAMP BEFORE YORK,
"17th October, 1781.

"My Lord,—I have had the honor of receiving your Lordships letter of this date. An ardent desire to save the effusion of human blood will readily induce me to listen to such terms for the surrender of your posts and garrisons at York and Gloucester as are admissible.

"I wish previous to the meeting of the commissioners that your Lordship's proposals in writing may be sent to the American lines, for which purpose a suspension of hostilities during two hours from the delivery of this letter will be granted.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,
"G. WASHINGTON.

"Right Hon'ble Earl Cornwallis."

"YORK IN VIRGINIA,
"17th Oct., 1781, half-past four, P.M.

"Sir,—I have this moment been honored with your Excellency's letter dated this day. The time limited for sending my answer will not admit of entering into the detail of articles, but the basis of my proposals will be that the garrisons of York and Gloucester shall be prisoners of war with the customary honors, and for the conveniency of the individuals which I have the honor to command, that the British shall be sent to Britain and the Germans to Germany under engagement not to serve against France, America or their allies until released or regularly exchanged. That all arms and public stores shall be delivered up to you, but that the usual indulgence of side arms to officers and of retaining private property should be granted to officers and soldiers, and that the interests of several individuals in civil capacities and connected with us shall be attended to.

"If your Excellency thinks that a continuance of the suspension of hostilities will be necessary to transmit your answer I shall have no objection to the hour that you may propose.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,
"CORNWALLIS.

"His Excellency Gen. Washington."

"CAMP BEFORE YORK,
"18th October, 1781.

My Lord,—To avoid unnecessary discussion and delays I shall at once, in answer to your Lordship's letter of yesterday, declare the general basis upon which a definitive treaty of capitulation may take place.

"The garrisons of York and Gloucester including the seamen as you propose, shall

be received as prisoners of war. The conditions annexed of sending the British and German troops to the ports of Europe to which they respectively belong, is inadmissible. Instead of this they will be marched to such parts of the country as can most conveniently be provided for their subsistence, and the benevolent treatment of the prisoners which is invariably observed by the Americans, will be extended to them. The same honors will be granted to the surrendering army as were granted to the garrison of Charlestown. The shipping and boats in the two harbors with all their guns, stores, tackling, furniture, and apparel, shall be delivered up in their present state to an officer of the navy appointed to take possession of them.

"The artillery, arms, accoutrements, military chest and public stores of every denomination shall be delivered unimpaired to the heads of the departments to which they respectively belong.

"The officers shall be indulged in retaining their side arms, and the officers and soldiers may preserve their baggage and effects with this reserve, that property taken in the country will be reclaimed. With regard to the individuals in civil capacities, whose interests your Lordship wishes may be attended to, until they are more particularly described nothing definite can be settled.

"I have to add that I expect the sick and wounded will be supplied with their own hospital stores and be attended by British surgeons particularly charged with the care of them.

"Your Lordship will be pleased to signify your determination either to accept or reject the proposals now offered in the course of two hours from the delivery of this letter, that commissioners may be appointed to digest the article of capitulation, or a renewal of hostilities may take place.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,
"G. WASHINGTON.

"Right Honorable Earl Cornwallis."

The second paragraph proves that Washington was not above the gasconading weakness of his countrymen, and it reads queerly to hear him boast of the "benevolent treatment of the prisoners," knowing that his masters, the Congress, had acted in the most outrageously treacherous and cruel manner to the prisoners taken at Saratoga, who, surrendering under capitulation, were marched into the interior of the country and compelled to labor, thus breaking every article of the engagements solemnly entered into by their officers, and that under the meanest and most disreputable of subterfuges. However, he was nothing more than an ordinary American, as they call themselves, and a fair specimen of the exaggerations of character peculiar to those people.

As the indecision of the British General brought on the crisis, nothing remained to be done but accept the conditions, and the following letter closed the correspondence on this subject:

"YORK, VIRGINIA, 18th October, 1781.

"Sir,—I agree to open a treaty of capitulation upon the basis of the garrisons of York and Gloucester, including seamen, being prisoners of war, without annexing the condition of their being sent to Europe, but I expect to receive a compensation in the articles of capitulation for the surrender of Gloucester in its present state of defence. I shall in particular desire that the Bonetta

sloop of war may be left entirely at my disposal from the hour that the capitulation is signed to receive an Aide-de-Camp to carry my dispatches to Sir Henry Clinton, such soldiers as I may think proper to send as passengers. I hope, to be manned with fifty seamen of her own crew, and to be permitted to sail without examination when my dispatches are ready, engaging on my part that the ship shall be brought back and delivered to you, if she escapes the dangers of the sea; that the crew and soldiers shall be accounted for in future exchanges; that she shall carry off no officer without your consent, nor public property of any kind; and I shall likewise desire that the traders and inhabitants may preserve their property and that no person may be punished or molested for having joined the British troops.

"If you choose to proceed to negotiations on these grounds I shall appoint two field officers of my army to meet two officers from you at any time and place that you think proper to digest the articles of capitulation.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,
"CORNWALLIS.

"His Excellency Gen. Washington."

Iron Duke, 14, double screw armour-plated ship. This magnificent specimen of naval architecture was successfully launched from Pembroke yard on Tuesday. This ship is built wholly of iron, and she is furthermore armour-plated with iron slabs, eight inches thick, down to the water-line. She is a very fine model, and it is fully anticipated she will attain the speed estimated—namely, 13½ knots—being propelled by twin screws, driven by first class engines of 800 horse power, on the trunk principle. Her armament will consist of 14 9 inch guns, 12 tons each, so that taking this into consideration together with her armor and the immense speed anticipated from her, she will undoubtedly prove a most formidable antagonist. Her accommodation for officers and crew is excellent. The between decks are about ten feet, thus ensuring, with other appliances, good ventilation. As her name implies, she is called after the Duke of Wellington; a profile likeness of his well marked countenance, in medallion shape, being placed on either bow, surrounded by an emblematical trophy of arms, representing laurels, bannerets, and warlike weapons, with the arms of old England and motto on the centre, the whole surrounded by a large scroll projecting slightly over the stem of the ship. This ornamentation is of bronze, and enhances the vessel's appearance considerably. Her stern, too, is very handsomely ornamented. The principal dimensions of the *Iron Duke* are as follows—Length, 280ft., 1½.; breadth, 54ft., 1m depth in hold, 25ft., 1in.; burthen in tons, 3787; and her dead weight is calculated at 3200 tons. A large concourse of people was present at the launch. The interesting ceremony of christening was gracefully performed by Lady Evelyn Campbell, daughter of the Earl Cawdor. A very elegantly carved fretwork box of Cuban mahogany, lined with blue silk velvet, and covered with a glass top, was afterwards presented to the Lady Evelyn by the respected master shipwright, Mr. Robert Saunders, who took therefrom a handsomely formed mallet of satin wood, and a burnished steel chisel, with a satin wood handle, with which Lady Evelyn dexterously severed the cord that suspended the weights. They then fell on the dog shores, and the vessel glided on into the water amidst great cheering. The *Iron Duke* was taken to Hobbs' Point, where her machinery will be placed on board *Broad Arrow*.