

Washington's  
appointment.

unanimous vote, after a few days' bickering, was chiefly due to the astute counsels of the Boston contingent in Congress, whose action was of the nature of a deal. It was a matter of mortal interest for New England that the army around Boston should be adopted by the Continental Congress in the name of the Thirteen Colonies; for up to 15th June 1775, the date of Washington's commission, the army was a Massachusetts army under a Massachusetts general, with contingents from other New England States.

The Southern States disliked New England, and were reluctant to offer any help in a dilemma of New England's own creation. Consequently, the setting aside of Hancock and the self-effacement of John Adams and his cousin before the claims of Washington, constituted a kind of act of reconciliation on American soil of the Cavalier and the Puritan, the men of the Church of England with the representatives of the Westminster divines.

Washington, in his cold grave way, was an adherent of episcopacy, and an occasional communicant of the Church. Like most men of leading in that century he was lukewarm towards the doctrines of revealed religion, and had no sympathy with controversial memorials or practices. Hence, as Commander-in-Chief, he discountenanced within his camp public notice of the anniversary of the Boyne and of the Powder Plot. He felt that these annual outbursts of controversial import are encouraged by persons whose aim is not so much to honour the dead as to annoy the living.

It was well that he should pursue this policy, as the bulk of his command, both in 1775 and throughout the war, were New England men. Of the 232,000 men composing the regular Continental army during the Seven Years' contest, no less than 117,000 came from the four New England States. With such a preponderance of Puritan opinion in the ranks, it was politic to ignore the motives and proceedings of religious factions, but the assertion by an English

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