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THE BOATMEN OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.
(Les Canotiers du St. Laurent.)

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF BENJAMIN SULTE.

BY MARY A. McIVER, Ottawa.

See you it glancing along o'er the wave?
Well o'er the breadth of the coast is it known,
My beautiful vessel so buoyant and brave,
'Tis the sure shelter from danger alone.
Mark, it shoots forward 'neath stroke of the oar,
'Mid the black squall, or the wind or the snow,—
Then, let us sing the old ballad once more,
Song of the Boatmen, as onward we row!

'Tis the first bark past the ice fleet that steers,
When spring is seen in the distance again;
'Tis the last ever that bravely appears
When the loud menace of storms is in vail.
Fearlessly, then, we respond to the roar
Of the wild tempests of wind and of snow—
Then, let us sing the old ballad once more,
Song of the Boatmen, as onward we row!

Pliant and swift it reels o'er the abyss,
While the fierce rage of the storm it defies,—
Now for an instant its light form we miss,
Surely 'tis lost, as 'tis to the eyes!
No, it arises, shoots on us before,
Guided by us o'er the great river's flow;—
Then, let us sing the old ballad once more,
Song of the Boatmen, as onward we row!

Brightly the beautiful sun on us beams,
Cheering the mariner's heart with its rays;
While our strong arms, o'er the billow that gleams
Bear our light skiff thro' the long summer days.
Tenderly ever the echoes from shore
Waft the sweet ballad of love that will glow
With the strong courage and warmth evermore
Of the brave Boatmen who sing as they go!

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,

1764-84.

CHAPTER XXIII.

While Gen. Howe was indulging in his slothfulness in New York in stupid farces Washington was busily engaged in opening the campaign of 1777, by a bold and partially successful effort to ou' up all the detachments of the British army in New Jersey in detail. On the 2nd of January Washington again reoccupied Trenton with 4,000 men whose astute Generals Count, Donop, and Leslie remaining at Princeton through ignor-

ance of the importance of the position on the Delaware. criminal carelessness of their duty or intense stupidity. Thoroughly alarmed at last Howe recalled Cornwallis, who was on the eve of sailing for England, and sent him to take command of the British and auxiliary troops in Jersey. Gen. Grant had moved from Brunswick in support of the force already there, and on Cornwallis's arrival a movement on Trenton at once took place, when Washington's army was attacked at sunset on 2nd of January, but the fighting ceased in consequence of the darkness, both parties preparing to bivouac on the field. A hasty council of war was held in the camp of the United States troops in which it was proposed to give battle where they stood, to retreat and cross the river at Philadelphia, or throw themselves on the line of communications belonging to the British. The latter proposition being the most feasible was executed. The road to Princeton was on the North side of the Assawpung Creek, nearly midway. The village of Maidenhead was occupied by a detachment under Gen. Leslie. The United States troops had taken up a position on the South side of the Assawpung Creek and commanded a newly made road to Princeton, which, passing through Sandtown, enabled him to turn the British position. If Cornwallis had possessed the ordinary ability of a General he would have crossed the Assawpung at Wingtown and bringing up Leslie's detachment from Maidenhead, compelled Washington to accept battle or ruin his army by a precipitate retreat. This disregard for the necessary topographical knowledge of the country through which they are operating is characteristic of the British army, and in this, the previous, and subsequent contests on the continent of America, it was painfully and disasterously displayed.

Washington, leaving his camp fires lighted, marched at one o'clock on the morning of the 3rd of January for Princeton. Colonel Mawhood, with 17th, 40th and 55th British regiments, were stationed at Princeton in anticipation of the battle on the 3rd. At Trenton Cornwallis ordered those regiments

to join him, and at sunrise the 17th regiment fell in with the van of Washington's army at Stony Creek. It would appear that considerable confusion existed in both armies at this unexpected rencounter, but the 17th regiment was led by a man of daring resolution, a Captain Scot, and while Mawhood was endeavoring to occupy some high ground with the other regiments he opened a heavy fire of artillery on Washington's van, and charging em at once succeeded in cutting his way through them with small loss and continued his march uninterrupted to Trenton. The other regiments behaved very badly and retreated to Brunswick with the loss of half their men. Daylight showed Cornwallis how he had been outmanœuvred, and the boom of artillery the danger he was in. A forced march to Princeton brought him on the scene of action in time to save Brunswick, and Washington, unable to cope with superior numbers, relinquished the line of communications, crossing the Millstone Creek at Kingston, three miles from Princeton, and breaking down the bridge he put his troops into quarters at Morristown to the north of Brunswick,—by this simple manœuvre reducing the superior British force to the defensive and rendering all their conquests useless. He had stumbled by accident on the true strategical position at last by opening his communications with Gen. Heath at Haverstraw Bay. He obtained the command of the Hudson above New York, re-opened the communications with the Eastern States, interrupted since the battle of White Plains and the subsequent withdrawal of Lee's force, and repaired the blunder committed in endeavoring to oppose the British advance on Philadelphia. That all this was not the result of a thorough knowledge of the success of strategy is proved by his subsequent relinquishment of all those advantages to cover Philadelphia, a position of no possible advantage. He subsequently, during Cornwallis' inaction at Brunswick, made himself master of Newark, Elizabethtown, and Woodbridge, and the coast opposite Staten Island, thus taking possession of the British army's communications with New York, and