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A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

The following lines were found under the pillow of a soldier who was lying dead in an hospital near Port Royal:

I lay me down to sleep,
With little thought of care
Whether my waking find
Me here, or there.

A bowing, burdened head,
That only seeks to rest,
Unquestioning, upon
A loving breast.

My good right hand forgets
Its wonted cunning now;
To march the weary march,
I know not how.

I am not eager, bold,
Nor strong—all that is past;
The summons home has come
At last, at last.

My half day's work is done,
And this is all my part;
I give a patient God
My patient heart.

And grasping his banner still,
Though all the blue be dim;
These stripes no less than stars,
Lead after Him.

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies,
1764-84.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

The utter dispersion of the United States army laid North Carolina open to the operations of the British General, but the difficulty of obtaining supplies neutralised to a considerable extent all advantages likely to accrue from the prosecution of active operations. Emissaries were despatched into North Carolina to advise the royalists to take up arms and promising the support of the British army.

The treachery of the South Carolinians, as evinced during the present campaign, rendered it necessary that severe measures should be adopted; especially against those scoundrels who, as militia soldiers, turned their weapons against their lawful military superiors. Cornwallis hanged a few after

Gates' defeat by way of example, but he should have exterminated the ruffians as they fell into his hands. Letters and papers found amongst the baggage of the dispersed army showed that people holding high rank in South Carolina were not ashamed to violate their parole and act the part of spies; the British General with a lenity highly reprehensible merely deported those rascals to East Florida and allowed them their parole at St. Augustine, when he ought to have hung every man of them. The temptation offered by the apparently defenceless state of North Carolina led Lord Cornwallis into an error most prejudicial to British interests and one that told fearfully on the success of the campaign.

Having received the necessary supplies on the 8th of September, the British army marched from Camden to Charlotetown towards the North West part of North Carolina through the hostile settlement of Waxhaws, while Major Ferguson with the corps of loyal militia he commanded was detached considerably in advance, and Colonel Tarleton with the cavalry and infantry of the legion moved up the western bank of the Wateree. On the right of this line of march a friendly settlement of Highlanders existed on Cross Creek, on the left another in Tryon County, if therefore the British troops could enforce obedience amongst the rebels through whose country their march was directed, a communication could be opened with those settlements and by their co-operation a speedy reduction of the whole Province effected. No certain objective point seems to have been aimed at during this campaign; a project for overrunning North Carolina was all that could have been contemplated from the first, and the force employed was woefully inadequate to such an extensive design; its success being made to depend on a whole series of contingencies beyond any human power to controul. The march of the main army was performed without any material occurrence except the necessity of establishing a depot and hospital at Blair's Mills on the Catawba, for the protection of which the 71st Regiment under the command of Major McArthur was left to garrison; this post also

servng to cover the communications with Camden. Lieut. Colonel Tarleton with the cavalry and light infantry of the legion received orders to cross the Catawba at Blair's Ford, and Charlotte was taken possession of after a slight resistance; but the gallantry of some twenty mounted Americans kept the whole army at bay for a few minutes by taking up a position in the Court House which stood at the intersection of two of the principal streets.

The vicious system of commissariat then prevailing in the British army occasioned incalculable mischief—cattle, corn, or whatever was needed for the troops was seized, the owners paid in receipts at Charleston, and the prices fixed by no means at the real value of the provisions and necessaries supplied; in fact it was little better than wholesale confiscation, and a capital method of turning every inhabitant into a guerilla; as experience amply proved. Videttes were shot down, foraging parties fired upon, and every means taken to annoy the British army. Another incentive was the fact of the wholesale desertion of slaves who followed the troops and were thus lost to the planters.

It was Lord Cornwallis's intention to establish a post at Charlotte, it being nearly equi-distant from Camden and Salisbury, but this was frustrated by the defeat and death of Major Ferguson and the total dispersion of his force—a loss sufficiently great to compel Lord Cornwallis to fall back to Wynnboro in South Carolina.

An attack on the British post of Augustine, on the Savanna, had been made by a partizan named Clark during the advance of the British on Charlotte, and after a good deal of hard fighting had been repulsed with the loss to the Guerrillas of over 150 men. Fearing his retreat might be cut off Clark crossed the Saluda and retreated towards the head waters of the Congaree. Ferguson had advanced to Gilbertown at the foot of the Blue Ridge when advices were sent him of Clark's return, and orders to cut him off if possible; but his own position had become critical enough to make doubtful whether the most rapid retreat could save him—he had advanced so far from his supports that Clark's