

thousand King's troops shut up! Well let us go in and we'll soon find room."

Gage was greatly re-inspired by these new troops and determined to take the offensive at once. The patriots were constantly on the alert, and as the time for the inevitable contest approached, they began to see the necessity of combined action. General Ward was by mutual consent, recognized the commanding officer.

The position of Boston offered very advantageous places for fortifications. There were two especially which were the keys of the situations, Dorchester Neck, and the peninsula of Charlestown. Gage intended to fortify these points but was outwitted by the patriots who discovered his design, and fortified Breed's Hill.

This decision came in the nature of a surprise, and so no fit preparations could be made. Ammunition was the great lack, and this very fact made the project one of consummate daring and bravery. William Prescott was the officer chosen to lead the party, and well did he fulfill his task.

About sunset on the sixteenth of June, the brigade, about twelve hundred men assembled on the common and with bowed heads listened to the prayer which President Langdon of Harvard College offered up for the success of the enterprise. The soldiers were uninformed, and carried fowling pieces without bayonets, and a scanty supply of powder and bullets. They departed silently, but swiftly. At nine o'clock Cambridge was left behind, and they proceeded to Charlestown Neck. Here they met General Putnam and the wagons loaded with the intrenching tools.

"The neck is a narrow isthmus connecting the mainland with the Peninsula; having the Mystic river on the north, and a large embayment of the Charles river on the south. Across this isthmus Colonel Prescott conducted the detachment undiscovered, and up the ascent of Bunker Hill. This commences at the Neck, and slopes up for about three hundred yards to its summit, which is about one hundred and twelve feet high. It then declines toward the South, and is connected by a ridge with Breed's Hill, about sixty or seventy feet high. The crests of the two hills are nearly seven hundred yards apart.

Bunker Hill had originally been specified as the place for the fortification, but Breed's Hill was nearer Boston, and had a better command of the town. This place, after a lengthy discussion, was agreed upon by Gridley an engineer and Prescott. It was midnight before the first sod was raised. Then every man seized in turn, the spade or pick, and soon the parapet was high and solid enough to form a good breastwork. By daylight, the entrenchments had been completed, and the distance covered was about eight rods square. The work had been carried on so quietly that no alarm was occasioned on the warships moored between Boston and Charlestown. In fact, all was so still that the "All well" of the watch on the ships could be heard distinctly.

The people of Boston were suddenly aroused by the sound of the Lively's cannon playing on the works, and a heavy battery was erected on Copp's Hill, which kept up an incessant fire. Everything was a complete surprise. Prescott continued to extend the line to a