

militia, left free to act by Howe's indolence, marched against them in force, penetrated to their settlements and burnt and wasted their towns and country compelling them to make peace.

This event secured to Congress the support of the back settlers who had hitherto been faithful to Great Britain. It would seem as if each movement of the royal Generals was designed to further the objects that the revolted Colonists had in view.

A properly organized force operating from the Lakes would have passed the friendly back settlements and with the Indians, would have penetrated past them to the vital points in each Province; but the Indians alone were of necessity obliged to attack the next settlement for two reasons, there was no commissariat and the inhabitants would not let them pass, a regular force in support would have obviated all these difficulties.

While England's sapient commanders were perpetrating this series of gigantic blunders in America, her politicians and statesmen at home were as busily engaged in giving them full effect; the eighteenth century was distinguished for its falsehood, profligacy and total want of principle, but in no class were those vicious qualities so strongly developed as in the public men, legislators and politicians of that false age. An affected philosophy, bordering on *Athicism*, took the place of religion, while admiration, real or feigned, for the absurd republican theories of antiquity usurped the place of true ideas of constitutional government. Opposition degenerated into faction and between that and downright treason the line of demarcation could hardly be defined; well was it for England that the heart of the nation was secure, traitors might under the *Ægis* of her real freedom give open countenance and comfort to traitors ready to rend her fair empire to pieces and level her ancient and honored institutions in the dust but *their hands were on the lion's mane*, and the people were ready to rally around a monarch whose social virtues had endeared him to his subjects and taught them to believe that whoever else was false, whoever else was treacherous, the English people could depend on the English king. The war for the conquest of the rebellious colonies was the war of the people of England and their sovereign against the enemies of both, tyranny had nothing to do with it, if such a principle existed it was developed by the rebel congress and its followers.

The English Parliament had adjourned in May, 1776 and the temper of the nation had unmistakably declared itself, the honor of England and the supremacy of Parliament must be sustained at all hazards. The opposition was nowhere, the treachery of Congress while sending Lee and Penn as delegates to London ostensibly to lay the grievances of the colonies before parliament in reality to negotiate treaties with France

and fit out privateers from French ports with commissions from Congress to prey on British commerce had become known as well as the celebrated Declaration of Independence, and with a roar of execration at such duplicity and treachery the British people shook off all sympathy for a cause supported by such atrocious scoundrelism, especially as it became apparent that England's ancient enemies and rivals, France and Spain, were manifesting a hostile disposition and giving council and encouragement to her revolted subjects.

The disturbances on the continent of America had extended to the West Indian Islands, and as the *institution* of slavery was then in full vigour in Jamaica a similar insurrection was imminent owing to the want of provisions, the withdrawal of troops and other causes, but the conspiracy was prematurely disclosed and easily crushed. The sailing of the West Indian fleet was postponed for a month and after its departure bad weather dispersed the ships many of whom were captured by the Franco-American privateers which the treachery of Congress had commissioned, and the delay caused by the outbreak in Jamaica enabled to arrive at favourable stations for that purpose. The loss from this cause alone was estimated at £1,000,000 sterling.

These prizes were openly carried into French ports in the West India Islands as well as in Europe and openly disposed of. Symptoms of hostility from other powers also exhibited themselves; the Dutch traded largely with the revolted colonies in smuggled goods and contraband of war &c., warlike stores and arms; of course it was too profitable a trade to give up, and therefore they were prepared to resist any attempt on the part of Great Britain to restrict it. The French cause of quarrel was obvious enough, a desire to recover Canada and humiliate a rival; Spain wished to recover Gibraltar and was under French influence and guidance.

The northern power of Europe was governed by that modern Messalina, Catharine II. of all the Russias, ever anxious to extend the influence of her empire and willing to remove the only barrier to its preponderance east and west, this astute sovereign prepared an armed neutrality, a sort of standing umpire whose principal business was to look on and when the antagonists had worried each other thoroughly to step in and choose that portion of the spoil best adapted for her purpose; the success of all these intrigues and the means taken to foil them by Great Britain will be detailed in their proper place, but by the acts narrated the revolted colonists had made themselves aliens from that great English stock who watched over their childhood, protected their adolescence and were repaid by the ingratitude of their manhood; it is not much matter for wonder if the British people felt natural animosity for such ungenerous conduct. The case was

therefore not an act of aggression on the liberties of the people by a tyrant aided by a proud and haughty aristocracy; on the contrary, it was precipitated by the treachery and aggressions of rebels, without sufficient cause, carried on by duplicity and treason; and on the part of England was simply the assertion of her just authority and an act of self defence necessary to preserve the individuality of her empire and national existence.

So far from its being either a popular or desirable war on the part of the aristocracy, the fact is that the House of Lords is justly chargeable with the most factious opposition to the contest in all its stages and that by some of the greatest orators and politicians the Peerage of England, fruitful as it is and has been of great men, ever produced. It was a war of the people in support of their rights led by their Sovereign, and under similar circumstances, at the present day, England could not act differently.

The opposition in the House of Commons had dwindled down to 87, or about one-fifth of the whole body; it is true Burke and other great orators comprised its real strength, but its conduct throughout the whole contest was factious and absurd.

On the 6th of November a motion was made by Lord John Cavendish for a committee to consider the conduct of the ministry in withholding from the House the powers granted to the Royal Commissioners at New York to treat with the rebels. Lord Howe's proclamation having reached the House through a newspaper report; during the debate it was absurdly maintained that all laws relating to the colonies should be revised and repealed, although the Declaration of Independence obviated the necessity, and so the House seemed to think as the motion was negatived, *forty-seven* voting for, *one hundred and nine* against, thereupon several of the minority seceded from the House when any question touching the affairs of the revolted colonies were under discussion. It will thus be evident that the success of the American revolution was due much more to faction and intrigue in the British Legislature, to open treason and foreign interference than to the generalship of Washington or the prowess of his troops.

Congress undoubtedly had able statesmen in its ranks, but they were also thoroughly unscrupulous by a judicious, use of force, intimidation and fraud, they compelled unanimity and the tyranny exercised during their existence was far more unendurable than that of the most oppressive and outrageous of the British generals; they had the cunning to make it appear to their adherents that it was a sacrifice to the *fetiche* they nicknamed Liberty, and as they gratified them by unlimited license to plunder Tories (i. e. every one differing or supposed to differ from them in opinion) a ready obedience was rendered, especially as against their mandate there was no appeal.