

### Burgoyne's Campaign.

THE year 1777 was fraught with import to the American colonies. It marks, perhaps, the most perilous period of our national history, and one of the great crises in the world's history. The memory of its achievements will last as long as freemen dwell upon the earth and popular government obtains among the nations.

The colonists had announced their solemn resolve to sever the ties which bound them to the mother State and to become a free and independent nation among the peoples of the earth. The word was spoken, but the work was yet to be accomplished. The baptism of fire was yet to be endured, before the word became the fact. Rambling efforts had been made by the Crown to subdue the rebels; but the first systematic attempt to crush the insurrection was yet to be made.

In the spring of 1777, General John Burgoyne succeeded Carleton in command in Canada, and, in early summer, entered upon his most memorable campaign. It had already been determined that the stronghold of America was the center and commanding point of the great system of mountains and valleys of New York, the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. Upon this point the royal forces were to converge; Howe from the south, St. Leger